

From Tim Jones
Labour Reporter
Eastbourne

The future of the special relationship between the Government and the TUC may depend on effective action to control prices. Mr Hugh Scanlon, general secretary of the United States Union of Engineering Workers, made that clear yesterday when he said he was confident a Labour government would be maintained in power if it understood the "real depth of feeling of ordinary working people" about the "inflationary pressures and the erosion of living standards".

In his presidential address to the union's national conference, Edinburgh, Mr Scanlon echoed the warnings given by Mr Joaze, of the transport workers, that failure to act on prices could mean a "confrontation between the two sides."

Doctors' leaders have asked the Government to meet the Prime Minister to discuss the delay in publishing a report on their pay.

Dr Elston Grey-Turner, secretary of the British Medical Association, told Mr Callaghan in a letter yesterday that there might be serious consequences if the delay, which had caused widespread alarm and despondency, continued.

The details available suggest that the cash award is within the pay policy limits, and Dr Grey-Turner said that if that was so there was no reason for delaying publication.

Government

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy Correspondent.

Intervention in the running of industry is the Government's most important task if it is to fight low pay without increasing unemployment, the TUC said yesterday.

It was giving evidence to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, which is considering lower incomes.

Industrial reconstruction, training, and manpower planning to take workers from low-wage industries into high-wage

financing section to reject a further round of wage restraint, he added that recent developments had emphasized once again the need for the TUC to keep talking to the Government about the developments. Included the Government's apparent intention to shelter the increase in petrol taxation and to make tax cuts not conditional on a phase three agreement. He also drew attention to a Government spokesman's comment on the possibility of a phase three agreement but, in an obvious reference to the Liberal Party, he said he wished the Government had a power to compel the Government to react as some parties.

The Government's proposed concessions, he added, should not appear in some other form, such as a new social security bill, or in some other way, especially in view of the extra burden they were suffering because of the relative lack of success Britain had in the EEC food policy negotiations.

Mr Scanlon said the wages

Union warn opposition to

Any new agreement on wage restraint would have to be opposed unless incentives were restored, a representative of small craft unions said yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Feewick, president of the General Federation of Trade Unions, told its annual meeting in Edinburgh that the whole trade union movement had kept its part of the social contract - the social contract, however, had not been brought down to single figures.

That destroyed the myth that wages were responsible

delighted that at their weekend summit leaders of the seven richest capitalist countries had put the need to reduce unemployment and fight inflation at the top of the list of priorities.

"It is an important reason why we must keep up pressure on the Government to take steps to improve job-creation, particularly for young people," said the speaker.

There was a high degree of reaction in the more prosperous countries of West Germany, the United States and Japan, and it is unfortunate that there has been considerable stress on it in euphemistically termed an extension of free trade.

The trading practices of some countries, he said, strengthen the demands for import controls, especially for price controls. Delegates to the conference passed overwhelmingly a motion calling for the nationalization of the car industry and that there should be under workers' control.

g to TUC on wage curb

for the high rate of inflation, she said.

"We know within our own membership that to maintain the present system of wage restraint will be nearly impossible," Mrs Fenwick said.

"Our people only know that the standard of living has decreased."

"We know talks are going on between the Government, TUC and the Confederation of British Industry; but unless their findings are seen to be fair and incentives are restored to many of us, we will have to oppose the TUC policy."

By Paul Roudedge
Labor Editor

The Government was accused yesterday by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, members of which have access to ministerial information, of undermining the industrial strategy agreed with the TUC by cutting key posts in the Departments of Trade, Industry, and Prices and Consumer Protection.

The union said that "information now coming through clearly showed that some of the main planks of the White Paper, *An Approach to Industrial Strategy*, would be seriously undermined by the loss of 1,540 posts decreed under the public

It identifies some of the effects of the cuts as follows:

1. Greater delays in implementing the selective financial assistance scheme, through the loss of 60 jobs in regional offices processing claims for estate help;
2. Increased "run-down" work on planning agreements with industry, about which the TUC has expressed anxiety, with 50 jobs to go in the Department of Industry division working on agreements with seven named companies;
3. Reduced export capability because of cuts in services to industry, including overseas fairs, and new charges for export services (100 jobs are to be cut in Export House and 30 in the export promotion offices);
4. Abolition of all 20 hire purchase inspector posts, "effectively withdrawing hire purchase controls" when the Government is supposed to be fighting inflation by controlling the money supply.

The union, which represents middle and executive grades of the Civil Service, argued last night: "These cuts are in total contradiction to the declared policies of the Government on industrial strategy and the reduction of inflation."

It pledged opposition to the cuts "by all possible means".

Miss Judith Knight, assistant general secretary, said: "We question how much the Cabinet and Parliament understand the damage that is being done."

On selective finance for industry, the union says that the cut of 60 jobs will mean that many companies will not find it worth while to proceed with investment plans.

The cuts in staff working on planning are, as far as the TUC's heart, will slow talks with seven companies mentioned by the union as discussing such schemes with some degree of confidence. These are: Leyland, Babcock and Wilcox, Clarke Chapman, Head Wrightson, Whessoe, GEC and Reynolds Parsons.

The head of building up staff in this division to go out and seek and negotiate planning agreements, the cuts in this area can only reflect the degree of confidence that the department place in the future of planning agreements or else a recognition that a fundamental part of the Government's industrial policy is the now a dead duck," the union says.

Turning to the issue of food subsidies, it insists: "Since many staff are being cut as a result of the food subsidies, it is the whole future of a Department of Prices and Consumer Protection must now be seriously in doubt."

Attention is drawn to further cuts in the National Physical Laboratory at St. Albans and the National Engineering Laboratory at East Kilbride, and a halving of the number of inspectors, who since 1966 have been responsible for the issue of food and water provided on board ships.

The union concluded its disclosures by saying: "In addition to the cuts in staff, the manpower cuts that are taking place in all divisions will lead to a distinct reduction in all the services offered to industry, and a reduction in the policy work being done for the Government."

From John Roper
Bournemouth

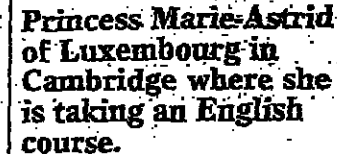
Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, said yesterday that despite all the cynicism about the social contract it had held together far more effectively than every pay restraint attempt so far.

One danger of the new standards, he said, is that they may be more "flexible," he said. "The 1970 and 5 per cent policies have started up a series of grave anomalies."

First, the fall in living standards must be arrested this year. Union members could no longer be expected to accept cuts in their standard of life. Second was the question of differentials. The pay policies had eroded and ossified differentials, and incentives for skilled workers had been reduced.

Third was consolidation. The failure to consolidate the pay supplement into basic rate had,

mean real interests" in an all-day debate on politics and professionalism, representatives of the 50,000 members heard Professor M. B. Boff, Principal of University College, Buckingham, say that the political climate was so hostile to the professions and professionalism that much of the energy of professional leaders had to go in fighting off political and nurses among others were being forced into politics because their own requirements demanded it. That seemed to be one of the most important of the many reasons why Britain was in a crisis.



By Peter Hennessy

The responsibility for much of the expansion of local government in recent years was placed firmly on the shoulders of ministers yesterday by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service.

Sir Douglas, who retires in December, has long had a reputation for directness. He marked his final appearance before the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure with remarks of a candid and unvarnished kind in public by a civil servant about his political matters.

The committee had given Sir

By Our Local Government
Correspondent:

Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, issued a revised circular to health and local authorities on joint planning and financing in the light of consultations with local councils.

It provides for a more flexible use of planning and finance provisions compared with the original draft circular of March, 1976. Last March Mr. Ennals announced a substantial increase in the funds available for joint projects.

Mr. Ennals said in the circular released yesterday:

think the new money, and that more flexible terms, will provide a wide range of funds to the charitable services."

Mr. Emma's said local bankers had put many points to the department during extensive consultations. "As a result we have made several changes to meet the probable requirements of the various institutions in the future funding of new projects."

We prepared to relax the general rule that initial support should not exceed 60 per cent."

The department has decided to keep five years as the maximum period of support, but will provide for a review after three years to consider a possible extension to six or seven years. There is also an agreement now to the use of Joint Financial Committees by the various voluntary organizations to their local needs.

Trade union leaders representing 70,000 workers, said yesterday that the Post Office profit on telecommunications should be used to reorder cancelled equipment and save thousands of jobs, instead of being given as a £7 rebate to subscribers.

A statement after a meeting of 11 unions said they would be insisting that the Government should change the Post Office decision.

Mugging risk in drink extension

More pensioners might be mugged in the winter if public houses opened longer, the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation suggests in a report published today.

It refers to the risk a pensioners leaving post offices with considerable sums at times when they might be attacked by people who had been drinking.

A baby elephant believed to be the first conceived and born alive in Britain was announced by Chester Zoo yesterday. Its Indian mother, Judy, has been at the zoo for 16 years.

Provost found dead

Mr Alistair Gardner, a former lord provost of Arbroath, was found dead in his car at Losshead, near Edinburgh, yesterday. The police do not suspect a crime.

By Neville Hodgkinson

Intervention in the running of industry is the Government's most important task if it is to fight low pay without increasing unemployment, the ITUC said yesterday.

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Industrial reconstruction, training and manpower planning to take workers from low pay industries into high-pay

ones would be logical if there were full employment and rapid economic growth, the latter being a necessary strategy of that kind might not be acceptable now.

"The area of concentration must therefore be to bring about the necessary industrial restructuring and increases in productivity with the least possible damaging effect on employment prospects. The major role of government in achieving this object will be to pursue an effective strategy of intervention in industry."

There should be emphasis on investment that would create

jobs requiring higher levels of skill, and the Manpower Services Commission and private employers would have far more resources to training.

The TUC pointed out that the group covered by the commission's terms of reference, the lowest quarter of households by income, received seven tenths of their income as social security benefits.

That did not mean that low pay was unimportant to that group, which was most vulnerable to unemployment and had the least resources to help its members when their earnings stopped because of illness, re-

dundancy or retirement. But gaps in the national insurance scheme should be filled and the level of benefits raised in relation to average earnings.

"In the TUC's view, the fact that for a few families supplementary benefits provide a larger income than wages is a condemnation of low basic wages and excessive burden of taxation at the lower levels rather than of the level of social security benefits."

The general council do not believe that the merely because people are isolated from the income-creating activities of the economy they should be

deprived of a decent standard of living.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, agreed in reply to say that this is pressing forward with further redistribution of income in favour of those who were not economically productive there was a danger that the productive would get less and economic growth would slow or stop.

But equally valid, he said, were the arguments for improving the use of labour resources by creating opportunities for all people to earn more through increasing their economic effectiveness.

Maintenance engineers at Heathrow want a showdown with British Airways management over their claim for increased shift pay, which recently caused a crippling strike, one of their leaders said last night. They believe that

Negotiations yesterday between shop stewards and Mr Reginald Birch, a member of the national executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, came to nothing.

NOON TODAY: Pressure is shown in millibars. **FRONTS:** Warm, Cold, Occluded. **Shrinks:** are an advancing edge!

Today

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.17 am	8.38 pm
Moon rises:	Moon sets:
2.1 am	12.37 pm
Last quarter: 3.8 am	
Lighting: evening 5.30 to 4.45 am	
High water: London Bridge, 6.50 am	
am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 8.7 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft)	
Low water: London Bridge, 12.59 pm	
11.30 am (37.0m), 5.14 am (38.5m), (38.5ft), 5.44 pm, 5.14 am, 5.70m (18.7ft)	
Full moon: evening 12.59 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft)	
Low water: Liverpool, 5.15 pm, 6.3m (20.8ft); Liverpool, 5.15 pm, 6.3m (20.8ft); 5.58 pm, 7.8m (25.5ft)	

Pressure will be low over the British Isles, with troughs of low pressure moving in from the west, parts in a SW Atlantic.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London: Rather cloudy, further cloud and rain spreading from W. wind W, moderate or fresh, max temp 13° or 14°C (55° to 57°F).

SE, central S England: Rather cloudy, rain spreading from W. persistent, hill and coast fog. wind W, to SW moderate or fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F).

W, SW England: Rather cloudy. Borders: Bright intervals, becoming cloudy with rain and hill fog. wind W or SW moderate, freshen. max temp 12°C (54°F).

Midlands, central S England: Mainly dry at first, rain spreading from W, occasionally heavy.

hill fog; wind SW, moderate
 fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F)
 NE breeze; wind S, moderate
 land, Wales, Isle of Man: Mist;
 cloudy, rain, perhaps heavy; h
 temp 10°C (50°F); wind SW, fresh;
 strengthening; max temp
 (54°F).

Area	Forecast
Gloucester District, SW	cloudy with rain from W, hill patches; wind S or SW, moder- ate; max temp 10°C to 12°C (50° to 54°F).
Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen	central Highlands, Moray Firth NE breeze; wind S, moderate; rain in places, patchy hill fog; wind S or SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).
Orkney, Shetland	Orkney: mainly cloudy, occa- sional rain, probably moder- ate; wind variable or S, light; max temp 9°C (48°F). Shetland: mainly cloudy, rain perhaps heavy; hill fog; wind S or SW, moderate; freshening max temp 11°C (52°F).
Outlook for tomorrow	Thursday: Unsettled and generally rather cold, snow on some high, frost in places. Sea: passable. Sea: S. Sea: Wind W, moderate or fresh; S slight or moderate.
Strait of Dover, English Chan-	nel: S breeze; wind S, fresh; strong; sea moderate or fresh; St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW, fresh becoming stron- ger; sea: fair; water; S moder- ate; becoming rough.

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HOME NEWS

Improper action by some barristers on plea changes alleged

By Marcel Barlow
Legal Correspondent

A report suggesting that several barristers had improperly persuaded their clients to change their pleas from guilty to not guilty, is to be published in the summer in a book of strong opposition by the Bar Council, which has told the Home Office that its publication in its present form would be against the public interest, dangerous and misleading.

The dispute has however, raised questions not only about the conduct of criminal cases by barristers but also about the ethics of research and the independence of research bodies from the government departments that finance them.

The report, prepared by Dr John Baldwin and Dr Michael McConville of Birmingham University Institute of Judicial Administration, contains the result of a survey of 150 defendants who had changed their pleas to guilty at a late stage. That survey was itself a spin-off from a larger research project on the reasons behind acquittal verdicts by juries.

The survey showed according to its authors, that a minority of barristers had used improper methods, going beyond approved professional behaviour, to persuade their clients to plead guilty. Others while within the guidelines laid down in the main case on the subject, had nevertheless used questionable methods.

The Bar Council learnt about the findings in January, and afterwards wrote to both the researchers and the Home Office, which had offered £30,000 to the Institute for the project, expressing misgivings about the research methodology.

It complained that barristers had not been asked to comment on the allegations about

Britain may claim EEC school milk subsidy

By Hugh Clayton

Ministers will consider claiming an EEC grant worth 30p a pint on school milk, Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday. The scheme would be worth more than £1m a year to Britain for five years.

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Council of Ministers of the EEC, of which Mr. Silkin is president, that it is part of the campaign to reduce the European milk surplus by stimulating consumption.

Mr. Silkin said he was confident that the Dairy Trade Federation in Birmingham, where he would put the idea to his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The present British school milk scheme enables more than 150 million pints of milk to be supplied free to young children at a cost of about £15m a year. Dairy traders are worried about an EEC campaign to undermine Britain's doorstep delivery of milk, when the United Kingdom adopts the full rigours of the common agricultural policy at the end of the year.

Mr. Brian Hayes, a deputy secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said the Community would increase its milk surplus if it forced Britain to dismantle her marketing system.

Mr. Hayes said such a change would mean an extra 200,000 tonnes of butter and 400,000 tonnes of skim milk powder every year to add to the Community surplus.

Butter has long been a complex subject for the New Zealand and cheese imports to Britain was demanded by the federation (the Press Association reports). The demand was strongly backed by Ireland and Denmark. It was later described as irresponsible and outrageous by the New Zealand Dairy Board. Mr. Silkin also criticised the call.



Water-borne petition: Boys from Otter School, Chertsey, Surrey, long met and a motor cruiser to hand a petition to Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, appealing for the continued existence of the maintained boarding school, which was founded by Surrey County Council in 1948 and which the council has voted to close.

Probation for man with 'appalling' record

Mr Justice Jupp, at York Crown Court yesterday, placed on probation for two years Robert Peter Small, aged 52, who, he said, had an appalling record.

He told Mr Small, of Putney Lane, York, who had admitted three burglary offences and one deception charge, that he wished the probation services luck in dealing with him.

"It is up to you to help the probation service and help me live this down," he added.

"You have an appalling record, 30 previous convictions, 17 prison sentences, and 18 times before the courts for offences of dishonesty."

"It is not much use to the community to keep you in prison, which is expensive. No doubt I shall be criticized for giving you a chance. It will make the whole legal system look foolish if I put you on probation and then you break into someone else's house."

Jail for plot to defraud tourist board

Geoffrey Leonard Allen was sentenced at Norwich Crown Court yesterday to 12 months imprisonment for his part in a plot to swindle the English Tourist Board of more than £10,000 in grants.

The sentence will be consecutive to a seven-year jail term imposed on Mr Allen in January for his part in a fire insurance fraud involving Brigsteed Mill, Norfolk.

His son, Geoffrey Davies Allen, Alistair Strachan, a Colchester solicitor, and Carin Smy, a Norfolk housewife, were all cleared of any involvement in the fraud, but a tourist board conspiracy. The trial of those three was halted yesterday when Mr Justice Gibson directed the jury to return verdicts of not guilty.

Mr Allen, aged 59, who was living in the Pullman Hotel, Norfolk, before his arrest, pleaded guilty to three charges of conspiracy with others to defraud the tourist board.

'Ill treatment' inquiry ordered

An inquiry into allegations of ill treatment at Moorfields Assessment Centre, Salford, Greater Manchester, a short-stay home for children taken into local authority care, has been ordered by the borough council.

Details of the allegations were published in The Guardian yesterday. Salford Social Services Committee has held an internal inquiry, but how long will it be before they slap big taxes on institutions, social workers and windmills?

Natural resources exploited to the full

People still arrive at the Centre for Environmental Education expecting to be amused by the sight of hairy eccentric inventors in their natural habitat. But, after 18 months in business, the people who run it believe they have broken the curricular barrier.

Increasingly, the centre is recognized as a serious research laboratory, and its windmills, water wheels, solar panels, horticulture and building methods are thought to point the way to the energy saving society we shall have to be, as the oil wells run dry.

So far, 60,000 people have visited the centre at the foot of a mountain near Machynlleth, North Wales; and 60,000 are expected to visit in this summer.

They will see engineers, scientists and their helpers, living in a cottage community, with exhibition hall and offices, all powered by the breeze, the sun and mountain streams.

This is by no means one of those "phantom-mediation opt-out communities." Nor is it Reith's Robinson. The centre was founded by the Society for Environmental Education as a permanent exhibition and practical experimental laboratory, showing how better use can be made of natural resources and how waste can be avoided. It is the

Regional report

Trevor Fishlock Machynlleth

offices are heated by the largest solar roof in Britain; and the cottages are powered by windmills and solar panels, storing energy either in hot water tanks or batteries.

Mr. Roderick James, the director of the centre, says: "Of course, many of the devices we use here, like windmills, are very old in principle. Our function is to show how simple machines and a little care can prevent waste and save energy. We aim to encourage people to be less materialistic and more self-sufficient. We cannot go on taking oil for granted."

The centre was founded with £25,000 given by three donors, and has been helped by £20,000 in grants. Much of the labour has been done by volunteers. The centre is in a reclaimed slate quarry and its cottages were rebuilt from ruins.

Other buildings were made from slate waste.

This summer, the centre will experiment with bricks made from rammed earth in a simple machine of a kind used in Africa and south America. Roderick James says that with this machine two men can build a small house in a week, using £25 of cement.

Naturally, the centre has nothing to do with chemical fertilizers. Some organic waste is fed into a tank to make

Manchester pub reopens amid cheers

From John Chatteris
Manchester

A building that many Mancunians treasure rather more than their town hall and almost as much as their cathedral is to reopen for business today.

The Old Wellington, one of two survivors of the cheerful group of hostilities in the market area of Old Manchester, selected by the Luftwaffe as an industrial target in 1940, has suffered the indignity of being closed for seven years while a giant concrete and glass complex has arisen around it.

Built, it is thought, about 1950, and for a period the home of the Byron family, including John, author of "Christians Awake," and inventor of an early form of shorthand, the Old Wellington became one of Manchester's favourite public houses and almost its last shelter and waste and dank building.

Having survived the 1940 bombing along with its neighbor, the Oyster Bar, while other public houses such as the Ship Inn and the Blue Boat disappeared into dust, the Old Wellington was again threatened in the 1950s when the city planning committee recommended that it should be demolished to allow a comprehensive redevelopment of the area.

It was preserved, however, in one of the first decisions Manchester made to preserve something of its heritage. But in order to allow a comprehensive redevelopment to go up around it, the public had to be jacked up nearly five feet from its original floor level.

That task has taken six years to complete instead of the two estimated; and it has cost its owners, Messrs. Chatteris, £200,000, or against £60,000.

This Old Wellington looked something like its old self to veteran Mancunians, when it was formally opened yesterday to invited guests only, by Councillor Kenneth Franklin, the Lord Mayor.

The restoration of the timbered building had obviously been carried out with loving care and at great expense. Somebody, however, had apparently gone off with the plaque commemorating the association of the public house with John Byron, and one of the architects had to confess that he had forgotten to reattach another famous brass plaque, inscribed "to a silent member" which had been put up in the public bar to commemorate a customer who used one particular seat for 25 years without speaking to anyone.

Regional variations in age of population

By a Staff Reporter

Three in 10 of the population of Kent, Hampshire, and aged under 15, compared with only one in 10 in the London borough of Westminster. A quarter of the population in East Sussex are aged over 65, compared with only a tenth in Bedfordshire and Cleveland.

These are among figures published by the Registrar General's latest population statistics for local government areas in England and Wales by sex and age in mid-1975 (revised) and mid-1976 (provisional).

Westminster statues go on sale

By a Staff Reporter

The Department of the Environment is offering for sale 17 statues taken from niches on the exterior of the Palace of Westminster.

They are Stone Kings and statues carved from Ancien stone, each standing about five feet high and weighing about five hundredweight. They were carved by various craftsmen in the 1850s, when the Palace of Westminster was being rebuilt as Charles Barry's neo-Gothic fantasy after the fire of 1834.

The project of "salvaging" the statues has been led by the Department of the Environment's conservation and architectural section, in a workshop off Vincent Square.

The statues for sale were put on show in a store room by the Thames yesterday: kings ferocious in anachronistic armour, some heavily bearded and with forefingers raised. The top of St Patrick's head fell off as it had been trapped, and King Deborah looked even more fierce as the statues bore witness to the mobility even of stone in the London climate.

Mr. William Shaw, who is organizing the sale by competitive tender for the Department of the Environment, suggested that people might like to have a giant gnomes for their garden.

The replacements have been

English call for share in devolution benefits

By Christopher Wren
Local Government Correspondent

The Government has been warned of a growing English resentment against the preferential treatment Scotland and Wales are getting over devolution in a memorandum by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities which represents London and the main conurbations.

Commenting on the Government's consultation document on English devolution, the association said yesterday: "There has been no evidence put forward that the people of England want devolution, but we recognize that there is a growing groundswell of opinion carried at the more favourable treatment that Scotland and Wales have received and may yet receive at the expense of England."

"This English backlash should be looked upon as a demand for equal treatment with Scotland and Wales, and not as a demand for devolution."

The association believes there is a danger that Scotland and Wales will gain a larger share of the national cake than is their right. It argued that Scotland and Wales were over-represented in both Government and Parliament. There would be Secretaries of State for Scotland and for Wales, but no one at Cabinet meetings specifically representing England and Wales. "In certain regions there are problems as acute and extensive as those of Scotland and Wales." Although Scottish

No mention of assembly for discussion by SNP

From Our Own Correspondent

There is no mention of the Scottish assembly in the agenda for the Scottish National Party annual conference, published yesterday. For all that has been said and written about an assembly as a catalyst for a Scottish parliament and the feeling within the party that an assembly would be a step towards Scottish independence, the failure of the devolution Bill has relegated an assembly down the party's priority list.

The conference, at Dundee, from May 26 to 28, will consider a broad range of Scottish questions but devolution seems significantly absent from the resolutions. Miss Muriel Gibson, national secretary of the party, said yesterday that the failure of the bill was the most likely reason.

"I would not say we have lost interest in an assembly, but our aim is independence and a sovereign parliament," she said at a press conference in Edinburgh.

There is little mention either of the political strategy by which that aim might be accomplished, but party members think it may be the centre of some hard private debate.

Local election results and opinion polls have convinced many in the SNP that Scottish independence is now more acceptable in the broad public view. What seems most likely to cause divisions among those deciding the SNP strategy is the timing of any full-scale, unambiguous independence

Spending cuts suspected cause of abortion rise

The number of abortions in England and Wales has risen for the first time since 1974, according to figures for the first quarter of this year, published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The rise has brought suggestions that cuts in spending on contraceptive services by health authorities may have contributed.

Abortions on women from England and Wales were nearly 4 per cent up, but most of the extra cases were from abroad. The total in the first quarter of this year was 35,370 abortions, against just under 32,000 in the same period last year, an increase of a tenth.

Apart from a small rise in 1974, it is the first significant increase in abortions since 1973, when more than 167,000 were performed.

Most foreign cases came from Italy and Spain, where liberal abortion laws have yet to be introduced. The abortion figure for foreign women was

Suspended jail sentence and fine on builders

David Norman Jenkins, said to have developed one of the largest building companies in South Wales, was given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling up to £10,000 at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday.

Mr. Jenkins, aged 29, of the Old Brewery, Cowbridge, Mid Glamorgan, pleaded guilty to corruptly giving a gift as an inducement to Ernest Westwood, former Chairman of Glamorgan County Council planning committee. He admitted paying £463 worth of extras in the new home of Mrs. Carol Evans, Mr. Westwood's daughter.

Mr. Jenkins asked for a further charge of corruptly giving a motor car worth £350 to an officer of Penarth Rural District Council in 1968 to be taken into consideration. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs not exceeding £3,000.

Helicopter dispute seen as union power fight

From Ronald Fair
Aberdeen

The Bristow Helicopters dispute is running deadlocked into its fourth week. The company said yesterday that four striking pilots had asked to be reinstated and had returned to work.

Ostensibly the dispute is between about 500 pilots at Aberdeen and Mr. Alan Bristow, chairman, over the dismissal of a pilot who refused a foreign posting. But Bristow employees said at work see the picture differently. The strike, they say, is about union power, both in the airline industry and in the broader field of North Sea oil.

Recently more than a dozen pilots and engineers said at work that they were taking a deliberate attempt by the British Air Line Pilots' Association to force union recognition on Bristow. It had tried to make individual pilot companies lean heavily on the helicopter

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HOME NEWS

Home Office is putting Cypriot refugees under pressure to leave, welfare groups say

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Refugees who fled to Britain for safety during the Cypriot conflict in 1974 are resorting to increasingly desperate measures to escape pressure from the Home Office to leave, according to welfare organizations in their community.

An unknown number have gone into hiding, changing their addresses frequently. They stay and work here illegally. The need to scrape a living is putting some of them at the mercy of unscrupulous backstreet employers, who pay them small wages to work long hours, but they are deterred from complaining through fear of exposure.

A survey of 66 refugees by one organization, Cypriot Refugee Action, showed that 18 had left the United Kingdom. 12 had married British passport holders and the rest lead a life of uncertainty.

This picture of their plight, which is causing smouldering anger among a hitherto peace-loving community, contrasts with repeated Home Office assurances of good will. Cypriots say those have been broken. The Metropolitan Police say that 236 Cypriots are wanted for deportation and have disappeared.

No one knows exactly how many refugees are here. In 1974, 19,852 Cypriots were

admitted, 12,428 of them as visitors with permission to stay less than six months. But many of those might have come any way and it is not possible to relate the number of admissions directly to the total number of emigrants from Britain. In 1974, 12,190. In 1975, 19,256 Cypriots were admitted, 10,603 as visitors for less than 12 months.

Mr Chambliss Stylianou, secretary of the Cypriot Defence Committee, established as a result of a referendum, quotes estimates of 10,000 Greek Cypriots who came to Britain. The experience of the Stylianou family shows the sort of difficulties that can arise with the Home Office. They come from a village which Turkish Cypriots have moved into; their house is used as a hospital. Mr Stylianou has been here since 1959, but the rest of his family fled from the village in 1974 and say they have nowhere to return to.

The Home Office says of Mrs Caterina Stylianou, Chambliss's mother, that she arrived in the United Kingdom for one month and permission was given for her visit to be extended to August 6. Her request to stay here longer has been turned down by the Home Office.

Mrs Stylianou remains here nevertheless, sometimes unable to sleep at night and increasingly fearing a knock at the

door which will remove her from comparative security.

Two of her sons, who were aged only 15 and 13 when they arrived, have been refused permission to stay. Two other members of the family, a married couple, went to a refugee camp in August, 1974, before coming to the United Kingdom. They want to stay until they can return to the house they had built in the family's village and equipped with new furniture. But the Home Office has said no.

The 1976 statistics show that the number of deportation orders signed was not out of line with those for people from other Commonwealth countries: 47, compared with 55 for Ghana, 68 for India, 69 for Nigeria and 97 for Pakistan.

But the Home Office attitude to the Stylianou family and other cases quoted to me does not, in the view of the Cypriots, accord with Government assurances given in August after criticism from the Select Committee on Cyprus, which said that the Home Office should be more compassionate in its treatment of Cypriot refugees.

The Government said it had been the practice to "give the benefit of the doubt to those whose claim not to be able to return to Cyprus could not be verified or refuted". Extensions of six months were being granted to those unable to return.

Simplified Finnish social security system saves time and money
Computers aid pensioners with cost of living

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government is expected this month to announce the next increase in pensions, to be implemented in November.

British pensioners, who are forced to watch their pensions eroded by inflation virtually from the moment they receive an increase with the prospect of retrospective inflation proofing one year later, may well wonder how the Finnish Government manages to do what they are told is impossible here. In Finland, if the cost of living rises in May by more than 3 per cent, higher pensions will be paid the following month.

The answer is partly that the Finns have invested in computer systems provided by IBM to deal automatically with claims and increases. In 1976 the pension rose three times in response to increases in the cost of living, to a cost of £500 in computer time compared with £500,000 for a manual operation.

The other part of the answer is that the Finnish pension system is neither as complicated as ours nor as politically controversial. So long as pensions can be used as an election issue, no party in Britain is likely to campaign for a system so simple that it is taken out of politics altogether.

Pensioners and some other benefits, including disability and sickness insurance, are handled in Finland through the Social Insurance Institute in Helsinki. Their official literature states that the institute handles one third of all social security operations in the country, but local offices are increasingly handling claims directly. The institute does not cover either short-term unemployment benefits or family allowances.

The Finns believe computerization has produced many benefits. It has helped to improve relations between staff and public by eliminating delays and errors, enabling people to know instantly precisely what

they are entitled to, and has effectively eliminated fraud. All pensioners receive free a newsletter which informs them of changes in benefit.

Much of the pension system in Britain is also handled by computer, but the Department of Health and Social Security points out that the complications of supplementary benefit cases mean a minimum of four to five months to implement any increase. Nearly two million pensioners receive supplementary benefit on top of their retirement pension. Because supplementary benefit is based on individual needs, each claim has to be reassessed individually whenever there is an increase. Supplementary benefits take up half the cost of administering the British social security system, although it pays out only 13 per cent of the total allowances.

The largest simplification in the Finnish system is that no contribution test is applied before a benefit is paid out. In Britain, only about a quarter

of pensioners receive the basic state pension because contribution tests have to be satisfied. The British pensioner gets less than the basic state pension if he or she has an incomplete contribution record, or more if a graduated pension has been earned.

The entire adult population in Finland is covered for basic state pensions by paying social security levies through the income tax system. The most complicated transaction takes place when a claim is made for a pension of whatever kind, because pensions are partly flat rate and partly means tested. But when an increase is made, a percentage is applied to the entire amount so that the whole claim does not have to be reassessed.

IBM claims that Finland has kept its administration costs down to about one-third of the costs in Britain, through spending one-tenth of its budget on computers compared with 2 per cent in Britain.

Why Can't You Remember?

A WELL-KNOWN publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement. It works like a charm to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

According to this publisher many people do not realise how much they can influence others simply by remembering accurately everything they see, hear or read. Whether in business, social functions, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate each situation simply by your ability to remember. These are only a few of the ways in which you will benefit by possessing a trained memory.

To acquaint readers of *The Times* with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", which will be sent free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Just fill in and return the coupon on page 4 or send your request to: Memory & Concentration Studies (Dept. TSMO), Marple, Stockport.

Outlets must be found for youth, police chief says

From Our Correspondent

Wakefield

More realistic punishment for vandalism and hoodlums is advocated by Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, in his annual report published yesterday.

Juvenile crime, he says, forms a large part of known crime figures. Public attention is

often focused on football matches but the trouble is not confined to Saturday afternoons.

"Violence and open defiance of authority are with us the whole time and are getting worse. We are assailed by an unprecedented challenge to law and order and people are sick of it."

"If the quality of life, particularly in the urban areas, is not to become intolerable, we must grasp the nettle now and deal with these problems in a way which reflects the universal condemnation of society."

The remedy, Mr Gregory says, might take two forms. In the short term, he suggests, detention in corrective establishments for extended periods would soon convince youngsters that society will not tolerate bad behaviour.

In the long term, more outlets for youthful energies and excitement must be found.

Discipline at home and in the schools is not sufficient to curb the natural energies and expressions of young persons.

Councils' £26m aid for arts is belittled

By Kenneth Gosling

Arts Reporter

Increased local authority spending on the arts in 1974-75, which came to £26m, was less than a quarter of revenue expenditure on public libraries or parks and open spaces, and about half what was spent on public swimming baths.

The increase on the previous year was £10.5m, but in real terms it was probably no more than about £4.5m, an Arts Council survey published today states.

This is the second comprehensive survey of local authority spending on the arts in England and Wales, conducted by questionnaire. The figure of £26m represents the product of a 0.34p rate, or 55p a head of population.

It compares with £40m spent by central government on arts and museums in England and Wales in the same year. Of that, two thirds went on the arts, mostly through the Arts Council, and a third on the museums and galleries.

Some interesting conclusions emerge. Drama companies had more success in getting increased subsidy from the ratepayer in the early 1970s than did orchestras and opera and dance companies. Striking increases were noted in many cities where new theatres had opened in the previous few years.

In the outer London borough of Redbridge, which spent £1p a head, the new Kenneth More theatre accounted for nearly half the total local authority spending on amateur drama in England.

The survey says: "It would seem that fashion shows and all-star wrestling make a fairly direct fiscal, as well as perhaps an indirect aesthetic, contribution to subsidized music and drama."

Expenditure a head on arts and museums tended to be considerably greater in London and

the conurbations than in the rest of the country.

The two surveys (the first covered 1972-73) suggested a major cut, even before inflation, in aid to local arts and arts festivals. Help for individual artists faded. Rather than commissioning works of art, the survey results suggest that more local authorities are putting more resources into organizing temporary art exhibitions.

Some larger authorities made arts part of the work of a leisure, recreation or amenities department. In Kennet, Wiltshire, the arts were linked with public relations. In Fareham, Hampshire, they came under the borough engineer and surveyor and in Castle Morpeth, Northumberland, they were the responsibility of the director of housing and administration.

The survey says: "Finance for the arts is still an insignificant part of the total recreation budget in some authorities and a small part in most."

Nevertheless, several million pounds would be attributed to the time spent by local authority staffs in administering arts activities and grants.

The Arts Council has decided not to award bursaries as part of its direct support for artists in 1977-78. Five, each worth £3,500, were awarded in 1976-77, together with 25 major awards (£750-£1,500) and 134 minor awards (up to £500). Increased scale of larger awards will be extended to range from £750 to £2,500, and they are open to artists living in England who have begun to establish themselves professionally.

There will be one selection in the present year and the closing date for applications is May 27. There were 888 applications for bursaries and awards last year. The Arts and Museums, 1974-75, on Arts Council Survey of Local Authority Spending. Arts Council Shop, 28 Sackville Street, London, W1X 1DA; £1.50 post free).

Butchers want illicit meat sales stopped

By Hugh Clayton

Butchers called yesterday for an end to the private sale of meat that is often dangerous to health and wrongly labelled.

Mr George Midgley, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, cited the sale of supposedly farm-fresh cut lamb in Hampshire which turned out to be a frozen New Zealand carcass with three shoulders, one leg and without about a third of its chops.

"We must intensify our battle against illicit sales of meat," he said, in a speech at the National Federation of Meat Traders' conference at Harrogate.

Those who intend to eliminate the cowboys retelling from filthy premises, boots of cars, pubs, factories and greyhound stadiums.

"We have no quarrel with farmers who retail meat according to the law and are subject to the same planning restrictions as we are. They have already discovered our problems and their prices are not even competitive."

Mr Douglas Glover, chairman of the pork and bacon section of the federation, called on the government to curb imports of processed pig that were undercutting home products with an unjust EEC subsidy.

The Wiltshire bacon industry has battled for years against unprofitability in economic circumstances largely dictated by its competitors," he said. "Pig farmers have threatened recently to prevent the ending of bacon if nothing is done. We could not wish to see them driven to that."

Widow murder charge

Anthony Thomas Green, aged 71, of Rockingham Estate, Southwark, London, was remanded in custody for a week at Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

He was charged with murdering Mrs Darie Williams, aged 53, a widow, at her home in Lupus Street, Finsbury.

Former marine gets 5 years for second rape

Less than three years after being given a suspended sentence for raping a housewife, John Smillie carried out a similar rape, it was stated at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Smillie, aged 27, father of two children, was jailed for five years after admitting raping a girl of 18 at Poole, Dorset, in January.

In June, 1974, Mr Smillie, then serving a Royal Marines Commando, appeared before Mr Justice Park at Winchester Crown Court and admitted raping the housewife. He was said to have dragged her from Poole High Street up an alley and into a shed, where he stripped and raped her.

Yesterday Mr Smillie, who was discharged from the Royal Marines after the first rape and now lives in Balben Avenue, Poole, appeared before Mr Justice Ackner and again admitted rape.

Mr H. de Lorbailere, for the prosecution, said: "His apparent honesty had some very favourable reports from probation officers and others that suggested that this offence was not likely to be repeated. It appears that those reports were wrong."

Printers refuse to cross picket

More than 60 members of the National Graphical Association, the main craft printing union, refused to cross a picket line of journalists outside the office of the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph yesterday. But a mass meeting was adjourned until today, and the printers went into work in time to produce a reduced edition.

The strike by the journalists began on December 6 over a fringe-benefit claim, but the editor has produced the newspaper single-handed through-out.

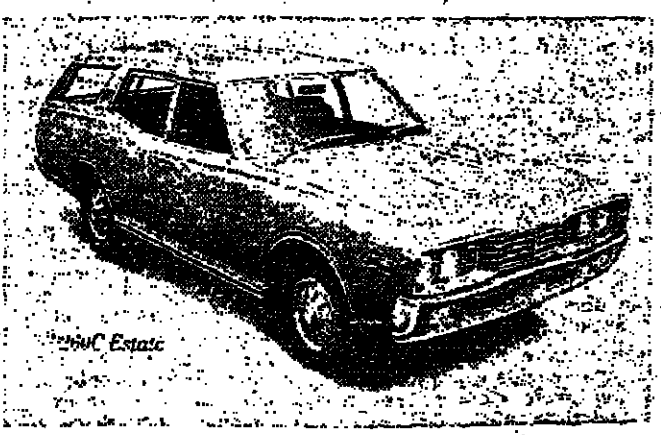
Datsun offer excellent positions for executives: £3,500 upwards.

The Laurel Six executive saloon, in fact, costs £3,545. Which represents remarkable value for a quality built car, equipped to an extremely high standard, and powered by a smooth, six-cylinder 2-litre engine.

It is one of five luxury executive cars in a range of over 20 models, which have maintained Datsun as Britain's leading car importer for more than three years.

And the Laurel Six really stands out in a class of its own, with no other 2-litre executive saloon able to compete in terms of sheer value for money.

The engine, for example, is a straight-six overhead camshaft unit—familiar enough in Jaguars, but a rich rarity in the 2-litre class, where four-cylinders are usually all you can get.



(Prices quoted include Special Car Tax and VAT. Seat belts, number plates and delivery extra.)

The smooth power of the Laurel Six gives it easy 100 mph performance, yet impressive economy is available too with up to 30 miles from each gallon of low-grade petrol—and with a 13 gallon fuel tank, that means a long way between refills!

The Laurel Six is luxuriously upholstered and particularly spacious.

And, when it comes to equipment, the Laurel Six has more executive features at its price than just about any car you can think of—tinted glass all round, push-button radio with stereo auto-change cassette player, reclining front seats with adjustable head restraints, electric clock with sweep second hand, illuminated ignition switch, automatic reversing lights, lockable glove compartment, powerful heating and ventilation system, side indicator repeaters, cigar lighter, heated rear window, and lots more.

There's executive luxury too with the Datsun 260C Saloon and Estate Car. Both have a 2.6 litre six-cylinder engine, power assisted brakes, power steering, and a host of luxury features—from deeply upholstered cloth seats to radios with electrically operated aerials—as standard.

The impressive Estate Car, at £4,500, offers a vast 75 cu. ft. of carrying space with the rear seat folded; the Saloon, at £4,760, has the added luxury of electrically operated windows, remote control opening of the boot and fuel filler cap, stereo cassette player, etc.

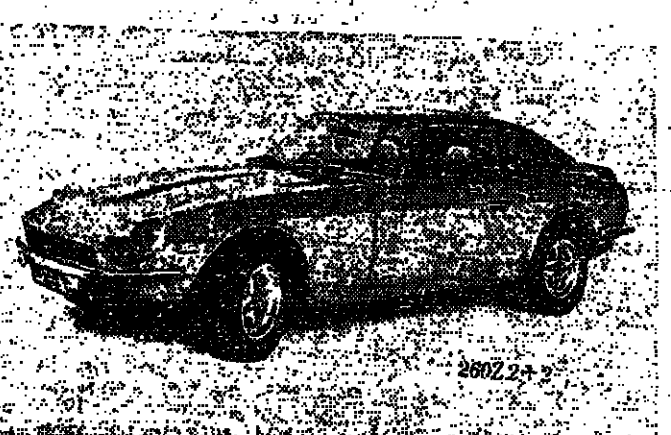
Completing the Datsun executive range are two versions of the high performance 260Z, the world's

largest selling sports car, with over 500,000 in use!

There's an exotic and luxurious 2+2, at £6,500, which really does have room for four adults in comfortably individual seats; and the superb sports 2 seater, at £5,699, winner of tough rallies all over the world, including two outright victories in the incredible East African Safari Rally.

Both cars have untemperamental 120 mph performance, with a five-speed gearbox, handsome cast alloy wheels, huge power-assisted brakes and fully independent suspension.

Take the time to look over the range of six-cylinder Datsuns at your Datsun Dealer. Executive motoring—Datsun Style—can leave you in excellent shape financially, with encouraging long term prospects, and very considerable fringe benefits.



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HOME NEWS

18% failure rate in car safety test

Our Motoring correspondent reports that the failure rate in the annual test for cars, which has risen to nearly 18 per cent since a new test was introduced in 1975, is "very worrying". Mr. Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

He appealed to motorists to ensure that their cars are maintained to the highest possible standard to meet the new, tougher checks on safety, steering, brakes and tyres.

Items added to the test on an annual basis included stop lights, indicators, the condition of seat belts, windscreen wipers, rear wipers, and the exhaust system. In 1976, the national failure rate was 17.7 per cent, compared with 10.3 per cent in the same month of 1975.

The failure rate was 19.7 per cent for 1977, with 16.1 per cent for steering, 9.1 per cent for brakes, and 7.1 per cent for tyres.

Deaths on road over 10 years ago

Fewer people are killed on roads in 1975 than in 1976, according to an analysis of road accidents in Britain published today by the British Road Federation.

In 1975 there were 2,500,000 vehicles on the road compared with 17,500,000 40 years later. Road deaths were 6,502 in 1975, and 6,368 in 1976.

In 1975, 7 per cent of road traffic fatalities were only 15 per cent of accidents in shopping and residential areas.

Law Report May 9 1977

International arbitration award valid

alman Dairy Industries Ltd v. International Bank of Commerce Ltd (1977) 1 Lloyd's Rep. 257, 137 F.T.R. 257, 137 D.T.R. 257, 137 C.T.R. 257, 137 F.T.R. 257, 137 D.T.R. 257, 137 C.T.R. 257.

Judgment delivered May 4.

An arbitrator conducting an arbitration under the rules of the International Bank of Commerce Ltd (IBCL) has no jurisdiction to award costs against a party who has failed to comply with the arbitration agreement.

The Court of Appeal dismissed appeals by the National Dairy Industry Ltd (NDI) against a decision of the arbitrator in the above case. The arbitrator had awarded costs against NDI for failing to comply with the arbitration agreement.

The Court of Appeal held that the arbitrator had no jurisdiction to award costs against NDI. The arbitrator's jurisdiction was limited to the arbitration agreement, and he had no power to award costs against a party who had failed to comply with the arbitration agreement.

The Court of Appeal also held that the arbitrator's decision was valid. The arbitrator had acted in accordance with the arbitration agreement, and his decision was binding on the parties.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeals by NDI. The arbitrator's decision was upheld.

Pay policy main part of dispute body's work

By Our Labour Editor

The Central Arbitration Committee, set up by the Government as a standing national industrial relations body in 1975, said in its first annual report yesterday that income policy is probably responsible for much of its case-load.

In its first year of operation, the committee dealt with 62 cases, and 50 others were outstanding. Of these, 40 were about income policy, 12 about other industrial relations issues, and 10 about other matters.

Professor Wood says in his conclusion: "It is obvious that the work of the committee is determined to a considerable extent by the current pay policy."

A substantial proportion of the work undertaken during 1976, he says, has come from the committee's direct involvement in the constraints of pay policy. But the committee is in no sense an appeals committee against pay-policy rulings.

Pay policy considerations, Professor Wood argues, are an inevitable and important element in shaping the issues which come before the committee. The committee is constantly aware of the impact of pay policy on the industrial relations scene. That follows from its determination to reach informed and realistic decisions.

While insisting that it is not charged with implementing the incomes policy, the committee adds: "It seems certain that problems arising from the incidence of pay policy and the relation of statutory provisions to pay policy will be increased."

The committee will continue to fulfil its functions in hearing in mind the objective of securing, wherever it can, that its decisions are conducive to the maintenance and improvement of standards of industrial relations.

The Government was urged yesterday to redefine shoplifting as theft and introduce stronger measures against offenders who are said to be costing Britain's shopkeepers a day. The committee's report, which is being presented to the House of Commons, says that more than 250,000 shopkeepers, at its annual conference at Brighton.

Mr David Davidson, of Swansea, who moved the resolution on behalf of the House of Commons, said shoplifting was usually considered to be something that little boys did in sweet shops.

But there is another brand, he said, of shoplifting, which is a more serious offence. It is the kind of shoplifting which is done by professional thieves, and which is a real threat to the security of the nation.

Mr Davidson said that the Government should take action to deal with this kind of shoplifting. He urged the Government to redefine shoplifting as theft, and to introduce stronger measures against offenders.

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V & A must lose a day, arts minister decides

By Our Arts Reporter

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, minister with responsibility for the arts, has decided that the Victoria and Albert Museum must close on one day a week to achieve economies imposed by the Government. The decision was taken despite representations by the Civil Service Union.

The minister, announcing his decision yesterday, told the union that, after considering its views, he could see no grounds for changing the earlier decision. No useful purpose would be served by a meeting to discuss the matter further, he said.

The public interest would best be served, he added, by implementing the new arrangements as soon as possible. "I therefore intend that Monday closing should be introduced with effect from May 16."

The union had argued that by cutting the number of basic grade workers from 201 to 172, instead of 164, a full six-and-a-half-day service could be operated. Lord Donaldson said his understanding was that some more than that figure would be required.

Officials of the union were on their way to Blackpool for their annual conference yesterday and were not available for comment.

Mr David Morgan, of Guildford, said shoplifting was the growth industry of the 1970s and shopkeepers were absolute sure the courts would soon be sending shoplifters to prison, not only the professionals but also more and more amateurs.

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22 feared dead in hotel blaze

From Sue Masterman

The Hague, May 9. At least four people died, and 18 are still missing, presumed dead, after fire gutted the Hotel Polen in the centre of Amsterdam early this morning.

Seven of those missing are members of a party of 50 Swedish visitors staying at the hotel, which held 105 guests, most of them asleep, when the fire broke out. Within minutes, witnesses say, the whole four-storey building was ablaze.

At least 31 people were detained in hospital. Five were transferred to a burns treatment unit at Beverwijk, near Amsterdam. The British Consulate in Amsterdam said five Britons staying at the hotel had been traced, and all escaped uninjured.

Mr Roy Aetion, aged 39, of London, escaped by climbing from floor to floor down knotted bedclothes. He said he was in the hotel when the fire broke out. He said he was in the hotel when the fire broke out.

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WEST EUROPE

Don Juan to give up right to throne on Saturday, says report

From William Chislett

Madrid, May 9. Don Juan de Borbon, the father of King Juan Carlos, is to renounce his rights to the Spanish throne on Saturday in Madrid, according to the evening newspaper *Informaciones*.

Don Juan, the Count of Barcelona, who is 63, was passed over by General Franco when he named his successor, Don Juan, son of King Alfonso XIII, who left Spain in 1931 before the second republic was established. The legitimate heir to the throne.

The announcement that Don Juan will come from his home in Estoril, Portugal, for a private ceremony to be held in the King's Zarzuela palace where he will renounce his rights in favour of his son, was greeted sceptically by informed monarchist sources.

"I will not believe it until I see it," said one monarchist close to Don Juan. He added that if it was true, then it was a bad moment to choose with the general election only five weeks away.

Don Juan has always let it be known that he will not renounce his rights until democracy is established in Spain. The source said that the country was in a state of confusion, that Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, had created a party "from within the power" in the Union of the

Democratic Centre and that if the reforms failed then the monarchy under King Juan Carlos would be in danger.

It real democracy was not brought to Spain then, the source feared, many people disillusioned with the monarchy, would call for the establishment of another republic. It would be more logical for Don Juan to renounce his rights after the general election and before the next constituent Parliament, assuming that the democratic system was reached.

More than 6,000 candidates are to stand in the June election presenting a confusing spectrum of political options for 350 seats in the Congress of Deputies and 248 in the Senate.

One of the last groups to present its candidates was the Union of the Democratic Centre headed by Señor Suarez. There are 26 groups contesting the election in Madrid, including the Spanish Ecological Party.

Disagreement within the Centre coalition over the way in which lists of candidates were drawn up has resulted in two Liberals and a Social Democrat withdrawing at the last minute. There was criticism of what was considered as the excessive influence of the Prime Minister in drawing up the lists and accusations of favouritism.

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Outburst at Dutch war crimes trial

From Our Correspondent

The Hague, May 9. Pieter Menten, the 78-year-old Dutch millionaire art collector, berated three judges today when his trial on war crime charges which carry the death sentence began here. He is accused of ordering or taking an active part in the execution of more than 200 Polish Jews in two Ukrainian villages during the Second World War.

Mr Menten, who was convicted after the war of collaborating with the Nazis in Poland, also berated the prosecutor, the witness, the press and even his defence counsel. Within minutes of the trial starting, he demanded that the president of the bench, Judge Schöffers, stand down.

He said there were 27 grounds on which the judge could be declared incompetent to preside. But he suddenly withdrew the demand when the president asked for an adjournment to consider it.

The trial is expected to last, with adjournments, until the end of the year.

Mr Bjerg appealed to the newspaper's competitors to "increase their circulation as much as possible so that Berlingske's basis for existence is lost."

The Berlingske house is reported to have about £2m because of the strike. Its editorial and administrative staff are still being paid. The unions are believed to have spent about £3m in fines and aid to the strikers.

Mr Bjerg's appeal for firms to undermine Berlingske Tidende has not been supported by other union leaders and the newspaper's main competitor, *Politiken*, will continue to restrict its printing run. Mr Siga Meyer, the general manager, said no attempt would be made to increase circulation and "when we have anything to discuss with the typographers we will contact the union stewards at *Politiken*."

In an even sharper statement later, Mr Bjerg appealed to the newspaper's competitors to "increase their circulation as much as possible so that Berlingske's basis for existence is lost."

The Berlingske house is reported to have about £2m because of the strike. Its editorial and administrative staff are still being paid. The unions are believed to have spent about £3m in fines and aid to the strikers.

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Man tied to a bomb dies in blast

Barcelona, May 9.—Señor José María Bulto Marqués, a wealthy Catalan industrialist, was killed by a time-bomb five armed men strapped to his chest today.

Señor Marqués, aged 77, was having lunch here with his sister when the gang broke into her home and strapped the bomb to his chest. It was set to explode in three days, the time limit given to Señor Marqués to pay a ransom of 500m pesetas (£4,300,000).

The men warned him not to touch the mechanism of the bomb and told him where to leave the money. The bomb exploded when he returned to his home and tried to remove the device from his body.

Señor Marqués was chairman of the board of *Cros Inc.*, a chemical company founded in 1934 and whose capital exceeds 3,000m pesetas (£26m). The company has 12 plants across Spain.—AP.

Prince opens Bordeaux show of British painting

From Charles Hargrove

Bordeaux May 9. One of the finest and most comprehensive exhibitions of British painting, from the 17th century to the present, is being opened today by the Prince of Wales at the Galerie des Beaux-Arts of Bordeaux. It is staged within the framework of the Queen's silver jubilee celebrations.

It is the result of the initiative of Madame Gilberte Martin-Méry, the curator of the Musée and Galerie des Beaux-Arts of Bordeaux.

In the words of the Prince, she "displayed treasures of tenacity and perseverance to convince the keepers of museums and galleries in France and in Britain, and even from as far afield as Budapest and Los Angeles, to part temporarily with 200 masterpieces."

The exhibition will be open throughout the summer. It includes portraits and landscapes by William of Derby, Lambert, Girin, Cromie, Cotman and Constable. There is a striking portrait of Glasgow of Captain Sir Thomas Lindsay by Alan Ramsay, and

another by Richard Wilson of Boulton. The National Gallery of Ireland has lent a fine landscape by Thomas Sorelle Roberts.

Modern art is well represented by the Camden Town Group and the London Group, the surrealism of Nash, abstract paintings by Ben Nicholson and Pasmore and the symbolism of Piper, Sutherland and Francis Bacon.

At a luncheon in his honour the Prince drew laughter by remarking from the outset that he was aware of the speculation in France about his matrimonial future. "I am also conscious that this has aroused some hopes among French ladies who hope to become Queen of England. But the last British sovereign to marry a French prince, Louis XVI, was executed. I must be careful," he said.

School bus collision

Lille, May 9.—The driver of a school bus was killed and about 25 children injured, five of them seriously, when the bus collided head-on today with a truck on the Lille-Douai road.

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another by Richard Wilson of Boulton. The National Gallery of Ireland has lent a fine landscape by Thomas Sorelle Roberts.

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Danish cabin crew join airline strike

Copenhagen, May 9.—Danish cabin crews of the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) said today that from midnight next Tuesday they will join the Danish and Norwegian colleagues in a strike for higher pay.

There will be no SAS flights from the Kastrup international airport here when the strike is extended. Internal Danish flights will also be cancelled.

Union officials said that the strike action was being taken because the airline had failed to meet its obligations to the cabin crew. The airline had failed to meet its obligations to the cabin crew.

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Wider satellite link-up for Europe

By Pearce Wright

A greater degree of independence in the launchings and operating of communications satellites is expected with the formation of Eutelsat, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, by 10 member countries of the European Space Agency and others.

The main aim of the new body is to provide a regional satellite system for telephone and broadcasting links between members of the European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications, with an additional 5,000 circuits by 1980, increasing to 20,000 over the following 10 years.

Arrangements for this regional network raise some acute political, economic and technical issues. Substantial changes would come in the income of some of the national telecommunications authorities.

For instance, communication links between Britain and Italy would no longer be connected through West Germany when a space relay station can straddle the Continent.

The partners in the regional European scheme are also among the 90 members of Intelsat (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization), created over 12 years ago, which operates the high-capacity satellites over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

Some of the satellites have been made by European companies. The rocket vehicles and launch sites have had to be provided by the United States, with each rocket costing between \$15m and \$30m according to type.

Several new factors make other arrangements possible for European regional satellites, or for comparable regional schemes in other parts of the world. The alternative facilities being offered by the European Space Agency are a result of the progress over the past five years of its Ariane rocket. Tests of the main engines for this vehicle conducted at the static firing range of the Société Européenne de Propulsion, at Verdon near Paris, were seen last week.

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OVERSEAS

Syrian and American presidents exchange fulsome praise before discussing Middle East

From Edward Mortimer

Geneva, May 9
The presidents of Syria and the United States showed praise on each other here today at a remarkably cordial first meeting before plunging into three and a half hours of talks with their advisers, followed by a working dinner and a final tête-à-tête meeting.

President Carter described President Assad as the great President of Syria. "As a leader of one of the great countries in the Middle East," he said, "I look to him for guidance and advice and for support as all of us search for progress in achieving peace in that important and troubled part of the world."

In a short speech calculated to please an Arab listener, Mr. Carter also repeated his view that "there must be a resolution of the Palestine problem and a homeland for the Palestinians." He ended by saying that he believed today's discussions would be fruitful because of Mr. Assad's "good will, his experience, his knowledge, his sensitivity and his graciousness in meeting me here."

Evidently responding to such fulsome praise, President Assad prefaced his own prepared statement with an almost equally fulsome impromptu rejoinder, thanking Mr. Carter for his "unfailing, persistent efforts" to achieve peace in the Middle East. He added: "Taken in their totality, the expressions of President Carter on the subject have created an atmosphere of faith and an encouraging atmosphere of optimism."

He described himself, indeed, as "greatly optimistic," but was careful to add that this did not mean that there was suddenly appeared a magic wand to solve the problem.

This more cautious note was reflected in Mr. Assad's prepared statement, which emphasized that there is still "a grave situation threatening international peace and security" in the Middle East.

Earlier, on his arrival from London at Geneva airport, Mr. Carter had expressed the hope that "later on this year we might come back to find a resolution" to the Middle East conflict; a reference to the

long-adjourned Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Assad, too, said he hoped today's talks would "pave the way with clear ideas for the holding of the Geneva conference," which he saw as "a suitable framework" for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East.

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said afterwards that the talks had been "extremely valuable, very informative and very friendly." The detailed discussion had concentrated on three issues: the nature and meaning of "peace"; the question of boundaries and their relationship to security; and the Palestinian issue.

On the Palestinian question, Mr. Assad may have conveyed a message to Mr. Carter from Mr. Yasser Arafat, whom he saw in Damascus on Saturday.

Syrian officials here refused to comment on a report in the Hearst chain of American newspapers that a message from Mr. Arafat had already been conveyed to Washington.



President Carter and President Assad meet in Geneva.

through Soviet diplomatic channels, proposing that the PLO would recognize Israel's right to exist in secure and defensible borders. If Israel would simultaneously recognize the Palestinian people's right to a national homeland.

Although American officials today seemed disposed to deny the report its author, Mr. John P. Walcott, said that before publishing it he had obtained confirmation from a State Department spokesman.

The information came originally, he said, from senior Soviet sources.

Both Americans and Syrians now seem embarrassed by the report, probably because its publication at this moment is likely to anger their respective protectors, the Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr. Shimon Peres, the Israeli acting Prime Minister, could suffer in the general election next week from the suggestion that America is preparing to put pressure on Israel to negotiate with the PLO, while Mr. Arafat is probably not yet ready to defend the idea of recognizing Israel publicly in front of his own militants.

Callaghan report to Commons on summit

By David Wood

Political Editor
Mr. Callaghan added nothing to the discussion from the seven Western leaders when he reported to the Commons yesterday on the economic summit at Downing Street, though it provided an opportunity for Mrs. Thatcher, the Opposition leader, and Mr. Steel, the Liberal leader, to congratulate him on his presidency and to accept that such meetings are valuable, even though they produce no immediate decisions.

As Mrs. Thatcher put it: "One should not expect much in practical terms to emerge from a summit. The greatest value of them is the meeting and understanding between leaders of the great industrial nations, which in itself is worth achieving."

It was also added, an important conference.

The Prime Minister commented that heads of government needed to meet at regular intervals as international problems changed. One example was unemployment, "now totally dissimilar to the 1930s" or before 1973. Another was the reinforcement of national defence.

The fact that we have been meeting," Mr. Callaghan said, "has enabled us to resist these pressures which have been coming from their own people to introduce restrictive and protectionist measures. Such measures would, in the short run, be damaging to world trade in the long run."

To those who were sceptical about summits, the Prime Minister replied that it was not the leaders' job to produce a



Mr. Callaghan holds an umbrella to protect President Giscard d'Estaing from the rain.

For the Prime Minister, one of the more practical consequences of the summit was the agreement to monitor the rate of growth of world trade, especially those economies growing faster than the others, so that if they fell short they were committed to take new measures to ensure they attained their targets.

blueprint. What they had to do was try to get a political impetus on the direction to be taken. That could be fed into the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development and various other bodies of which Britain was only part of the membership.

On a day of more than usually courteous exchanges between the leaders of the two main parties, Mrs. Thatcher made a telling point when she asked what steps Mr. Callaghan or any other leader took to see that women were represented at the next summit.

"I regret no ladies were present," said Mr. Callaghan chivalrously. "I will certainly take note of Mrs. Thatcher's application for the post, but I cannot say that she will be successful."

West to resist change in status of East Berlin

By Roger Berthoud

The three Western powers involved will resist the efforts of the German Democratic Republic, supported by the Soviet Union, to change the status of East Berlin and restrict quadripartite responsibilities to West Berlin.

That is the main message of the declaration issued yesterday's meeting at 10 Downing Street between the heads of state and government of the three Western powers, President Carter, President Giscard d'Estaing, and Mr. Callaghan, with Herr Schmidt, the Federal German Chancellor.

It was the first such discussion of Berlin since the Helsinki conference in 1975, and Herr Schmidt thought that it was one of the best he had attended. The declaration, mainly arms limitation, it is thought, was also discussed.

The United States, Britain, and France share responsibility for Berlin as a whole with the

Soviet Union. There was no direct reference in yesterday's declaration to the "quadrilateral" relationship between the four powers, but the declaration was seen as a reaffirmation of the fact that the quadripartite agreement was based explicitly on the fact that the quadripartite agreement was the result of the corresponding wartime and postwar four-power agreements, and decisions were not affected. They reaffirmed that this status of the special area of Berlin could not be modified unilaterally.

The three powers will continue to reject all attempts to put in question the rights and responsibilities which, France, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union retain relating to Germany as a whole and to all four sectors of Berlin.

The three Western powers are genuinely anxious less the East Germans, with Russian support, forbid their more or less daily patrols in East Berlin. It is no secret that these patrols

are a distant reminder to the GDR Government of its restricted sovereignty in East Berlin.

Already this year the East Germans have taken several small steps which the Allies regard as ominous. They have announced the discontinuation of the publication of the Government's gazette promulgating GDR legislation in East Berlin. Since January Western visitors to East Berlin have had to get visas rather than permits (allied military personnel excepted).

In addition, Mr. Ploier, the Soviet ambassador in East Berlin, was reported as saying at a press conference that allied rights and responsibilities were confined to West Berlin, although this was subsequently denied.

Mr. Abrastanov also said recently that the Soviet block was interested in turning West Berlin from a source of East-West conflict into a positive factor in European détente.

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US expects little progress as Salt II talks resume

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, May 9

Mr. Paul Warnke, the principal American disarmament negotiator, goes to Geneva tomorrow to resume negotiations with the Russians on Salt II. Mr. Warnke, the foreign minister, arrives next week and American officials are taking every opportunity to say that they do not expect much progress from the exercise.

Mr. Warnke said this morning that the Americans did not change their position in Geneva. "We have proposed nothing new at all," he said.

"They have proposed nothing new."

He strongly disapproved of the negotiating technique under which one side, simply by refusing to answer the other's proposals, could obtain a modification of those proposals without further effort.

Mr. Warnke asserted that there were certain hopeful indications in the long article published in Pravda last month which denounced American proposals as unacceptable one-sided.

The Russians seem to be suggesting that they might accept certain modifications of

the Vladivostok agreement, such as a reduction of the ceiling on delivery vehicles, the bombers and missiles from 2,400 to 2,200. This would not meet the American desire for a comprehensive arms reduction but would be a small advance.

According to Mr. Warnke, the danger was that if there were no comprehensive arms agreement, the existing technology would render existing agreements obsolete and make a new agreement more difficult later on.

He was referring, among much else, to continuing

Freedom songs greet UN five in Windhoek

From Nicholas Ashford

Windhoek, May 9
The five members of the United Nations Security Council (South-West Africa) were greeted by the leaders of the various parties in the dispute, and achieve, than the South West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO), would win by a slight head.

A group of about 50 SWAPO supporters was on hand today outside the Katutura Hotel, where the UN five were staying. The official SWAPO delegation had talks on the future of Namibia with representatives from the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council.

They gave a rousing rendition of several freedom songs, waving clenched fists and chanting political slogans.

The Turnhalle delegates also brought along their supporters, about 200. But they all came from one tribal group, the Hereros, whose leader, Mr. Clemens Kapuuo, is one of the most prominent members of the Turnhalle conference, and were considerably less than the SWAPO group.

It was, on the whole, a very good-natured beginning to a series of discussions, a prelude to the territorial peace and transition to independence. The SWAPO group carried placards calling on South Africa to release political prisoners. The Turnhalle supporters had their placards demanding the release of SWAPO prisoners held in Tanzanian jails.

White shoppers mingled with the demonstrators without exchanging a glare, the SWAPO group, heavily led with clerics, took each other's photographs. Judging from the brief remarks made by the various delegations, the atmosphere of today's discussions was also friendly and informal. All the talks were confidential.

The first meeting of the day was held between the five Western representatives from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Canada and France, and the 37 members of the multi-ethnic Turnhalle constitution committee. The talks, in a nightclub on the hotel's fourteenth floor, lasted four hours.

Turnhalle delegates expressed general satisfaction at the meeting. Jacques Schreier, the French Ambassador to South Africa, who is leading the Western group, said he thought the talks had been constructive.

A 12-man SWAPO team, led by Mr. Daniel Tlengero, the original SWAPO spokesman, then met the Western five for two hours in a hotel bedroom. They were followed by the Namibian National Front, a black nationalist group, and the tiny opposition Federal Party. A smiling SWAPO spokesman said they were "relatively satisfied" with the talks.

All parties involved in today's meetings emphasized that the talks had been largely exploratory.

35 civilians shot dead in Rhodesia

From Michael Knipe

Salisbury, May 9

In one of the worst incidents of its kind in Rhodesia's 10-year guerrilla war, at least 35 black civilians were killed when Rhodesian troops clashed with African nationalist guerrillas in the middle of a tribal village near Chiredzi, in south-east Rhodesia.

At least 30 people were wounded. The dead included six girls, six boys, seven men and 16 women. Most of the wounded are in a serious condition.

A Special Branch detective, Superintendent Jim Carse, who briefed a party of journalists taken to Chiredzi today, estimated that "about half" the civilian casualties were caused by Government troops and the other half by guerrillas in the battle last Friday night.

One guerrilla was killed and there were no Government casualties. Superintendent Carse said it was one of the most unfortunate incidents he had seen in his 24 years in Rhodesia.

The incident took place in the village of Dabwa, in the Chiredzi tribal trust, about 20 miles north-west of the Mozambique border. Government troops, hunting a group of guerrillas who had robbed two buses arrived at the village as a guerrilla leader was addressing a meeting of about 200 villagers.

The troops were spotted by a guerrilla sentry who opened fire. Other guerrillas joined in the shooting and the government troops fired back. The civilians panicked and fled, many being caught in the cross-fire, said Superintendent Carse.

Anglophilia takes grip of US press corps

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, May 9

The London summit has brought out suddenly and spectacularly the innate Anglophilia of the American press corps. The White House press corps are clearly having a splendid time visiting such exotic places as the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall, and Old Hall, Washington New Town, and they are greatly impressed and pleased with their President's success with the crowds.

One of Mr. Carter's most ferocious critics has been Mary McGorery, of the Washington Star. In the past three days she has written more nice things about him than in the past three months. He can do no wrong, and if the words of the House-hold Cavalry in Whitehall serve no useful purpose, it is all part of the charm of the place. The New York Times, as usual, has half a dozen people covering the story, and while none is quite so lyrical as Miss

McGorery, they too give a very pro-British cast to their reporting.

All these highly-powered political reporters are delighted that the summit has coincided with the local election, and fight for the unconditional respect of the rights of man wherever they are violated."

The appeal was approved by the executive committee of the Christian Democratic World Union at the end of a week-end congress.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Signor Mariano Rumor, the former Italian Prime Minister, pledged support for "the efforts undertaken by the President of the United States to bring about détente and cooperation in the world."

The Christian Democrats were planning to call a congress in which they would cooperate with the Democratic and Republican parties of the United States as well as with the Socialist and Liberal internationalists.

Appeal by Christian Democrats

Brussels, May 9—Christian Democrats from Western countries appealed today to President Carter to "favour détente and fight for the unconditional respect of the rights of man wherever they are violated."

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Bukovsky warning to Socialists

Continued from page 1

with the persecuted ends. Tomorrow you may refuse to defend your own workers, and the day after tomorrow no one will defend you.

A man always has something to lose, a step backwards that he can take. Even in solitary confinement in Vladimir prison, where there is no light, no air, no bed, no books, and soup only once a day, a man can continue to fight and be given another term of solitary.

Of course the West is still a long way from a cell in Vladimir, but it is learning and getting used to the idea of "soup once a day." Your politicians are successfully putting across the inevitability of the alternative "either war or slavery." The policy of giving way and currying favour with the Soviet oppressors has already led to a situation where several countries have become states with limited sovereignty.

For instance, your government is now planning to close the Russian section of the German overseas radio, because of its worry that even the tone of voice of the announcer might seem subversive to the Soviet leadership.

This is being done to a country where millions of people every night press their ears against their radio loudspeakers to pick up your German broadcasts through the jamming, to find out what is happening in the world. I congratulate you! They have forbidden you to knock on the wall and communicate with the man in the next cell.

And all this time communists are killing people on the Berlin Wall, drowning them in the North Sea and blowing them

up on the frontier. They do not feel embarrassed about it, it is quite normal, it does not even disturb these useful contacts between the two Germanies.

Contacts between the two Germanies are essential for the East and West—how do those who signed the Helsinki agreement understand them? With whom in the East do they intend to cooperate, with the peoples or the governments?

Nearly two years have passed since the final act was signed. It may be that the text was formulated less precisely than previous international agreements on human rights. So this lack of clarity gives the West a loophole, a chance to make new concessions. But Helsinki does include a new phenomenon, a provision for checking that the agreement is being observed.

At first we hoped that the Western world would demand the fulfilment of the agreement in full, that the pressure that gave birth to a widespread "Helsinki movement" in the Soviet Union and the East European countries. In Moscow, the Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania and Armenia organizations were created to monitor the agreement.

They managed to collect documents, compiled on the basis of numerous complaints, by researching concrete instances and sifting information. For they knew that the Soviet Union would do everything to feed the West false information. But they did not imagine that the West would develop a reputation for being fed this false information.

Today in Soviet prisons there are the following members of Helsinki groups: Yuri Orlov, Alexander Ginzburg, Mikola Rudenko, Evlad Gamsakhurdia, Oleksa, Tikh, Merab Kostava, and Anatoli Shcharansky. Defenders of human rights are in prison in Prague, Berlin and Bucharest. They were arrested for giving information to the 35 states which signed the agreement. They chose freedom.

The governments and politicians of Western countries are already prepared to give up any rights which they might make in Belgrade. At the recent conference of the Socialist International a majority decision was taken not to "demand too much" in Belgrade, because insisting on demands might harm détente and ruin relations between East and West. I do not understand what "to demand too much" means. The West should demand no more and no less than is written in the final act. Why was it signed, after all?

The Amsterdam delegates had no prison guards with machine guns standing behind their backs, no police dogs barking at their heels and there was no one to open fire at them "for attempting to escape." They simply chose captivity.

On Bonn, Correspondent writes: Deutsche Welle, responsible for broadcasts to the Soviet Union, denies any plan to stop, cut or change its Russian service. Suggestions that they were giving in to Moscow arose when it was moved in the press that the head of service might be moved.

The move, which was also denied, will not be decided (if at all) before the end of June, and if it happens it will be nothing more than a promotion for the man concerned.

Tentative easing of Lahore curfew ends in shooting

From Richard Wigg

Lahore, May 9

For the first time in four days, the Pakistan Army lifted the curfew in central Lahore for two hours this afternoon in addition to the brief morning breaks.

But the experiment of "lifting the lid" on local sentiment ended badly when, just before the curfew came on again, a procession formed up in a main thoroughfare shouting opposition slogans and violating the martial law ban on street gatherings.

After warnings, the Army opened fire, injuring at least five demonstrators, including a woman.

The shooting, the first since Friday when three people were killed by troops in the Anarkali bazaar region, illustrated the military authorities' difficulties.

There is now evidently a split in local public opinion. Opposition supporters emphasize that they are eager to go on defying martial law, while many ordinary citizens are only too obviously keen to get back to normal daily life.

The semi-underground National Alliance (PNA) leadership has put about word of an "ultimatum" to General Muhammad Iqbal, the Fourth Army Corps Commander and military administrator of Lahore, that the troops should be withdrawn by 10 am on Friday.

The Maulana Maudoodi, the powerful religious leader of Jamaat-ul-Islami, which forms part of the PNA movement, today issued a statement timed to exploit the Army's difficulties created by its siding with Bhutto's Government. "My faith in the integrity of the Army has been shaken," he declared.

At the Punjab High Court here today the Opposition began its legal battle to prove that the Army's intervention was unconstitutional, including the whole paraphernalia of martial law.

The petition neatly argues that, since Mr. Bhutto maintains he called in the Army "in aid of the civil power," it must come under the jurisdiction of civil courts.

Sacrifices needed to keep Romania free

From Dessa Trevisan

Bucharest, May 9

Romania today marked the centenary of its independence with a ceremony here at which thousands of people cheered as President Ceausescu recalled that the country had had to fight for its freedom.

As well as being an occasion for patriotic pride in the past, the anniversary celebrations illustrated Romania's determination to guard its independence in the future, too.

President Ceausescu spoke for two hours of Romania's struggle for freedom. He referred to the war with Turkey in 1877 as an historical lesson which made clear that a state which practised "policies of domination

and oppression" was doomed to defeat.

Romanians still needed to demonstrate that they were capable of making sacrifices in order to retain their independence, which was not a gift but the result of blood and sweat.

Mr. Ceausescu said that in spite of the recent earthquake in which 1,570 people were killed, the economic target for the first four months of this year had been fulfilled by 103 per cent and the annual rate of growth so far this year had increased by 12 per cent.

The earthquake had made 35,000 families homeless and although much had already been done in the centre of Bucharest, to clear

the rubble, Romania needed foreign aid to repair the damage.

Earnings, which were to have gone up by 18 per cent, will now be increased by 30 per cent. The President's audience applauded this news even more vigorously than the President's references to the country's 190-year history.

Yesterday Romania announced a general amnesty affecting more than 28,000 people either serving sentences or awaiting trial. Mr. Paul Ionescu, a leading human rights activist who was arrested last year, was freed from prison but forbidden to speak to foreign journalists, as were several other people who were released at the same time.

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Foreign Trade Company offers:

I. STEEL PREFABS—slabs; ingots; blooms.

II. ROLLED STEEL PRODUCTS—heavy plates:—shipbuilding plates according to International Shipping Registers; boiler plates; commercial qualities; alloy and low-alloy steel qualities; cold rolled sheet; cold rolled coils; hot rolled coils; carbon steels and alloy tool steel (rolled and forged) incl. high speed rounds, flat; cold formed profiles; angles with equal or unequal wings; U-shape with equal and unequal wings; reinforcing bars.

III. DRAWN STEEL PRODUCTS—cold drawn steel bars; cold soft black wire; hard cold wire, soft black wire; soft galvanized wire, bright wire for nails; pre-stressed concrete wire including strands, barbed wire; welding electrodes for carbon and alloy-steels; wire ropes; building nails and special nails.

IV. STEEL TUBES AND PIPES—seamless steel line pipes; casings with long/short or Buttress thread; spirally welded line pipe with diameter over 419 mm; welded black and galvanized tubes with plain ends or threaded and couplings; drill pipes; tubings.

V. ALUMINIUM AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS—ingots; cast plates; cast and extruded bars; cast wire (Properzi type) and drawn wire; cold rolled sheet (mill finish, Diamond, Stucco); welded pipes for irrigations; foils; joinery (for doors, windows, etc.).

VI. FINISHED PRODUCTS—industry and anchor chains.

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OVERSEAS

Egyptians and Israelis using live ammunition in war games at night behind ceasefire lines

From Robert Fisk, Cairo, May 9. For more than six weeks, thousands of Egyptian and Israeli troops have been engaged in an unprecedented but far largely unacknowledged series of military manoeuvres on the Egyptian-Israeli border. On only 30 miles from each other, behind the United Nations ceasefire lines in Sinai, the two armies have been engaged in a series of live-fire exercises. The shooting, which has been going on since the ceasefire, is the most serious military activity in the area since the end of the last Middle East war in 1973.

Targets set to save environment

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replied by holding exercises of their own. Both armies have been firing weapons nightly since then.

Cambodians in border gunbattle with Thais

From Peter Hazzard, Bangkok, May 9. Tension on the borders of Cambodia and Thailand erupted in a three-hour gunbattle yesterday after Thai police clashed with Khmer Rouge troops who reportedly crossed the border near the town of Chantaburi during the weekend in search of food.

Zaire calls on rebels to lay down arms

Kinshasa, May 9.—Zaire radio today urged rebels in the southern province of Shaba to lay down their arms as Government troops were reported to be closing slowly on two rebel-held towns.

Afrikaner rivals fight it out

From Our Correspondent, Cape Town, May 9. By-election in the Johannesburg suburb of Westdene on Wednesday is awaited here as a key indicator of political trends in nationalist Afrikaanderdom at a crucial stage of South African history.

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operating under the Israeli Southern Command. So many Egyptian troops are involved that when the Government in Cairo decided to send reserves into the western desert to counter any threat from Libya, they sent soldiers from the eastern desert, not from the Sinai. An Israeli Brigade of the Egyptian First Army based on Cairo and Alexandria.

Russia gives no hint of military aid for Ethiopia

Moscow, May 9.—Ethiopia and the Soviet Union today pledged support for each other and condemned "the intrigues of imperialism" in the horn of Africa.

98 pc in Djibouti poll opt for independence

Djibouti, May 9.—More than 98 per cent of the voters in yesterday's referendum here voted for independence from France, according to final results published today.

Clear victory for ruling party in Sierra Leone

Freetown, May 9.—The ruling Sierra Leone All Peoples Congress (APC) headed by President Siaka Stevens easily retained its overall majority in last Friday's general election, according to preliminary results published here today.

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Colonel Mengistu, whose military government (Dergue) is facing internal rebellion, has signed a report which would be sent to the Ethiopian head of state. He left yesterday after a visit to Lomé.

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SPORT

Cricket Packer has problems but remains optimistic

Sydney, May 9.—The Australian Cricket Board will be solely responsible for the 18 Australian cricketers for the "super Tests" against a Rest of the World team, according to International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman, Kerry Packer, the chairman of the Australian Cricket Board, said today.

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Tests have nothing to fear from the circus

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent. To say that the creation of a "circus of international players" expected to be announced tomorrow, will wreck the future of Test cricket is a wild exaggeration. The Royal Variety performance at the London Palladium is all very well, but it is not the real thing. More than anything—more even than the presence of a majority of the world's best players—international cricket needs the stimulus of national pride.

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between the Australian fast bowlers, assuming they were fit, and the South Africans, such as Barry Richards and Graeme Pollock, who have been lost to international cricket since 1971 and have therefore never played them. The South Africans would have something to prove. Being uncompetitive (it makes me the slightest difference to the spectators which of the players collects an extra \$5,000, or whatever it may be for winning the series), the match would lack the rest of the Test cricket.

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Rhoades: 'It may be the tip of the iceberg'

The International Cricket Conference may call a special meeting to discuss the proposed cricket circus. It is almost certain that a firm stand will be taken against a series, which threatens the future of Test cricket. Some reaction to the news are as follows:

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SPORT

Rugby Union



Final practice at Twickenham: the assistant manager and coach, John Dawes, discusses tactical moves with some members of the British Lions party for New Zealand.

Lions must be wary of propaganda about lack of talent in New Zealand

By Richard Streeton

More sporting journeys resemble a crusade from the history books than a British Isles Rugby Union tour of New Zealand. The Lions leaving London today under the captaincy of Phil Bennett share much in common with those medieval knights: a certain in terms of the physical combat to be anticipated and the total commitment and dedication required.

Plenty of enjoyment, too, whether in the past from cutting off infidels' heads, or nowadays from winning a rug against the All Blacks. Above all, of course, memories, mostly pleasant ones, that last those involved a lifetime, all crammed into 14 unforgettable weeks. Reference books are obscure on home and away records in the crusades but Bennett's Lions carry an enviable burden compared with their modern predecessors.

When the Lions under John Dawes won their international matches 2-1 with one game drawn in 1971 on their last visit, it was the first time the British Isles had won a series in New Zealand. Three years ago the Lions, on their next tour, rampaged unbeaten round South Africa under Willie John McBride. The first winning series against the Springboks came by a 3-0 margin with one draw.

It all combined to set standards of attainment which it is almost unfair to expect Bennett's team to reach, quite apart from sport's seldom absent traditional swing of the pendulum. Rugby realists, and anyone with a knowledge of the New Zealand character, will be under no illusions that the All Blacks will now be more determined than ever before.

Last summer New Zealand were beaten 3-1 in South Africa in a series which was unsatisfactory from them from several aspects. Since then there have been sweeping administrative changes in the New Zealand game; a new coach has been appointed; and a full crop of promising young All Blacks discovered on a highly successful tour to Argentina.

Despite this a constant stream of woe propaganda about the lack of talent available has already emanated from Whangarei, at the top of North Island, to Invercargill, at the bottom of South Island. It makes it more necessary than ever for the Lions to be wary. New Zealand rugby pessimism in these circumstances has always tended to represent a mask against over-confidence rather than to be any realisation of the true potential of their team.

There has never yet been a Lions team sent overseas fully representative of British Isles rugby. There never will be as long as the administrators retain the full-scale fixture pattern established in more developed times several generations ago. This time the touring team do not visit Australia but they still play 25 matches in New Zealand and on the way home, in mid-August, play Fiji for the first time.

Both scrum halves have separate roles, the great Welsh backs, J. P. R. Williams, Gerald Davies and Gareth Edwards, and the back row forwards, P. J. Dixon (England), have been named. They are the most significant names among those unavailable this time. It remains uncertain whether any of them might yet be free to join the tour later if replacements have to be summoned.

This is not the moment to dwell on the criticisms which greeted the tour later if replacements have to be summoned. It is not the moment to dwell on the criticisms which greeted the tour later if replacements have to be summoned.

Whatever might have been the case in the past, I do not believe that the Lions have a better chance of success than they have in the past. The Lions have a better chance of success than they have in the past.

The Lions list of fixtures

FULL BACKS: A. R. Hogg (Huddersfield) and R. Hogg (Huddersfield).
WINGERS: P. R. Hogg (Huddersfield) and R. Hogg (Huddersfield).
CELTIC: C. H. Hogg (Huddersfield) and R. Hogg (Huddersfield).
STAND-OFF HALVES: P. Bennett (London) and R. Bennett (London).
SCUM HALVES: D. W. Bennett (London) and R. Bennett (London).
PROPS: G. A. Hogg (Huddersfield) and R. Hogg (Huddersfield).

Golf

Coles doubtful for first big tournament

Neil Coles is doubtful for the first international professional tournament of the 1977 British and Irish season—the £40,000 Benson and Hedges international open which begins at Fulford tomorrow. The 42-year-old Ryder Cup player is suffering from sciatica.

After a short practice session he said: "I shall have to wait until tomorrow before deciding whether to play or not. I am far from fit and my back is painful at the moment." Coles, who pulled out of the French open last week, gave a glimmer of hope when he added: "It always seems worse in the mornings but it has improved since last week."

Crashen Burroughs, the former English champion came successfully through the mad scramble in the 18 holes pre-qualifying test with a best of 34 and 30 compared with 64 at Strensall. It earned him the chance to challenge for the first prize of £5,000 in the 72-hole tournament proper. Burroughs had nine three-one scores in the 18 holes pre-qualifying test with a best of 34 and 30 compared with 64 at Strensall. It earned him the chance to challenge for the first prize of £5,000 in the 72-hole tournament proper.

Football

Mullery rejects move to Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough have made an approach to Brighton for the services of their manager, Alan Mullery—but they have been turned away. Brighton's chairman, Michael Gold, said yesterday that Mullery was on a four-year contract and would be staying with the club until 1981. He is not interested in leaving. I've only been in the job for one season and an very happy where I am.

Brighton have announced increased admission prices for next season. Their best seats in the main stand will cost £10 more a season, an increase from £50 to £60. A spot on the terraces is increased by up to £1.

Norman Hunter, although on 20 penalty points, will be available until the end of the season for Bristol City. Gow, also on 20 points, will be available for the final matches, but misses today's home game against Leeds United after his dismissal against Manchester United on Saturday.

Boxing

Two Olympic men drop out of team

Pat Cowdell and Sylvester Mizee, two of Britain's Montreal Olympic boxers, have withdrawn from the England team to compete in the European amateur championships, in Halle, East Germany, from May 27 to June 5. No substitutes will be named, so this reduces England to a five-man team.

Cowdell, who won a bronze medal in the Olympics, and became ABA champion for the fourth time, at Wembley, last Friday, has told selectors that he has had a hard season and wants a rest. There have been rumours recently that he may be interested in a professional career.

Ekweh, the best of the best in the ABA championship finals, has been left out. The championships are considered tougher than the Olympics, and good young prospects can be ruined by premature exposure to the power of the East Europeans.

Racing

Vaguely Deb to come out in style at York

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent
The three-day spring meeting at York begins today in singularly unpropitious weather on ground that will have absolutely no spring in it at all. Without wishing to suggest excuses for failure, the recent wet weather may well have had a lot to do with the unpropitious of form this season, especially when you remember how dry it was for most of last year.

Let us hope, though, that the soft conditions underfoot will not prevent Vaguely Deb from winning the group three Musidora Stakes, which is the most valuable prize at stake at York today after the Yorkshire Stakes at Craven. Yesterday, Michael Seely wrote that Vaguely Deb was his idea of the season's most promising colic at stake at York today after the Yorkshire Stakes at Craven. Yesterday, Michael Seely wrote that Vaguely Deb was his idea of the season's most promising colic at stake at York today after the Yorkshire Stakes at Craven.

Michael Seely, their respective trainers, yet even they concede that Vaguely Deb will be very hard to beat.

If you abide by the form book, Triple First should finish in front of Lady Rhapsody, judged on how they performed at Doncaster on St Leger Day. But there is ground for thinking that Lady Rhapsody has the greatest scope. This season she has certainly done the better. At Epsom she finished second to Lady Marc in the Princess Elizabeth Stakes, while Triple First only managed to finish fifth behind Freeze the Secret in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket. A second place in the Yorkshire Stakes at Craven would not even beat Triple First, who will be wearing blinkers for the first time this season.

Bessie Wallis, Icom and Pulcinella are three other runners who will arouse interest today. When Bessie Wallis won her only race last year she was greeted by the course by such a reputation that she started favourite. She only justified all the things said about her by leading from heart to finish the Oaks Trial at Lingfield last Friday. That summer, the Swift Verdict ought not to be good enough to beat Vaguely Deb. Our Newmarket Correspondent thinks that Amaranth, Azucena, Elegance and St Theresa will all run well in the Zetland Stakes. Amaranth, who is by Bold Lad and out of the Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Favolite, will be ridden by Lester Piggott and together they should be a fairly formidable combination. The other race for two-year-olds, the Yorkshire Stakes, ought to be won by Royal Pinnacle, who impressed me so much when he won at Sandown Park at the first time of asking.

York programme

(Television (IBA): 2.30, 3.5 and 3.55 races)

1.45 A MATCH (1m)	1.300000 The Old Pretender, R. Armstrong, 6-10-10 Miles J. Day 2 1-3 The Old Pretender, 11-9 Pat Bann
2.0 ZETLAND STAKES (Maidens) 2-y-o fillies: £1,875 (5f)	1. Avarice, R. Hogg, 8-11; 2. Dan Falah, M. Seely, 8-11; 3. Fortis and Vale, M. Seely, 8-11; 4. Grey Cat, R. Hogg, 8-11; 5. Mace Imperial, W. L. Hogg, 8-11; 6. Sarah Goldens, W. L. Hogg, 8-11; 7. Welsh Blossom, N. Adam, 8-11; 8. Avarice, 7-2 Amaranth, 4-1 Welsh Blossom, 11-2 Elegance, 8-1 Azucena, 12-5 Emerald, 11-4 others.
2.30 YORKSHIRE STAKES (2-y-o: £2,152 (5f))	1. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 2. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 3. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 4. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 5. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 6. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 7. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 8. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 9. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 10. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 11. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 12. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 13. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 14. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 15. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 16. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 17. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 18. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 19. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 20. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 21. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 22. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 23. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 24. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 25. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 26. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 27. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 28. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 29. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 30. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 31. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 32. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 33. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 34. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 35. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 36. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 37. Royal Pinnacle, 11-9; 38. 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Government policies will not be changed as a result of summit

for universal collaboration. Mr. Callaghan—One of the reasons we have held three conferences of this sort in the last year is that the world economy is interdependent and it must be increasingly managed as one. It cannot be left to free market forces in their entirety. There is a place for market forces. (Constitutional Labour has a place, but not an excessive place when we have 15 million people unemployed. It is for this reason we met and the two must be combined. That is why I am in a Democratic Socialist League, not a conservative one.) The primeval conservatism (Labour cheers and laughter.)

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Finance Bill, committee stage.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: New Towns (Scotland) Bill, third reading; Acts of Parliament (Collection of Miscellaneous Bills, General Statement) (Scotland) Bill, second reading; Prayers; Address in reply to a message from the Queen in connection with the rules.

use of Lords

Earl of Kinross (C), moving second reading of the Sale of Goods Bill, said the Government might as well abolish the ancient gilds in any case, and that it was of the manner, it would be by removing certain discrepancies which existed.

The first objective was to help protect certain public or quasi-public land against the encroachment of the lands managed in the Bill. The second objective was to put an end to the twin degrading spectacle of the one hand the lords and their parish councils (he said) strongly that these ancient proud titles which seem from their heart of hearts to be offered as a bribe for a lord's attendance at a lordship convention as the Lord of the Manor of Great Soar—some years ago. Having the lordship over Amesbury, Japan and so on is degrading.

But, Under Secretary for the

ment's attitude to the Bill was one of benevolent neutrality. But at this late stage of the session, the Government could only a slender chance of making progress in the Commons. She would not oppose second reading, but she wondered whether it was wise to pursue other ways of achieving the worthwhile objectives. Lord Kinross had in mind without going through what was possibly a tortuous piece of legislation.

Lord Sandford, for the Opposition, said he could give the Bill substance and provisions and much more to the Bill than met the eye and until this became more clear he wished to reserve judgment.

But he agreed to the transfer of the title of a manor to absentee and outsiders was an affront to the dignity and might of local communities and might hamper the development of recreational facilities on village greens. Sale by rattle was a scandal.

Lord Sandford moved a second time.

keep an eye on those industries which have been set up by Japan and the countries which are assembling plants, using imported components from the Far East?

Mr. Dell: That is a matter for the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr. Eric Varley). The Department of Industry has brought pressure to bear on the Japanese to open this country to use locally made components.

Mr. John Nott, chief Opposition spokesman on Trade (Sir Ivor, C), Have the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Nakasone, and the United States given any indication that they would wish to give the multilateral trade negotiations a further boost and to go ahead with reduced tariffs to give the United States which are considerable with those countries?

Mr. Dell: I discussed this matter during a recent visit to Washington and with the Prime Minister. It is clear that the United States is necessary to give an emphasis to the multilateral trade negotiations. That, I make it, involves the removal of barriers which are currently impeding our exports.

The problem in Japan is not trading of formal obstacles but the trading system which does not make it possible for exports in the same way as the trading system in European countries.

Huge UK trade with EEC partners

provement in our visible trade will lower the reduction of some 2270 million in our deficit with them in 1976.

Ned Marten (Sanbury, C.)—Since we joined the Community in February, 1973, we have accumulated a total deficit of over £2,500 million trading deficit, now running at an annual rate of £2,500 million. Our trade with the Common Market represents 35 per cent of our total trading deficit. This is the largest deficit in the world.

This terrible deficit must have caused some part of the decline in the value of the pound sterling. Mr Moschler—He has spent out the size of the total deficit since 1973 and I agree with him that it is far too large. But it is also true that since 1973, our trade has deteriorated more in respect of our other main industrialized partners, namely the United States and Japan.

He should also be fair in taking account of some offsets that exist, the monetary compensation which at the lowest point the devaluation cost us £400 million, the invisibles.

We have had a surplus on invisibles with the EC of some £100 million, with the USA of £150 million. In the next which are certainly very much less than the deficits on visible trade.

Does he think the question of New York landing rights for Concord is being negotiated at the same time has difficulty to get an agreement on the proposed agreement for British carriers?

Mr. Dell: I hope there will be an agreement by June 22. There are grounds in the negotiations to make that hope justifiable, but, of course, I cannot give a guarantee. There are substantial matters outstanding between the two governments.

As to whether it was sensible to have proceeded six months before the change of administration, it seemed right to do that and I know of nothing to persuade me that it was not.

It has proved possible in the last six months, notably in the round of negotiations which has ended, to discuss the matter substantially.

I do not think that the fact that we have had a six months' ground-clearing period has hindered it. In my belief, helped.

There is a decision in New York on the question of Concord. I have no comment to make on

much with

be helpful if directors of companies could indicate on the register—(laughter)—if the living directors could advise the Companies Registry of the fact that one of their number had departed this soil.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C)—The responsibility of a relatively small number of companies not to comply with their obligations under the

Company, which is a serious blot on commercial practice and damaging to the over-burdened majority, particularly of small businessmen who do their best in this manner?

He will have the support of the House if he clamps down on the irresponsible minority.

Mr. Clinton Davis—He is right. In response to that, we have stepped up the number of prosecutions in 1976, more or less doubling the position over the previous year. I hope Mr. Grant's observations will be taken to heart where it matters.

Changes

shows that the 1975 Act contained provisions which were inacceptable except by amendment, the Government welcomed a Bill to put those defects right and enable the work of the Fisheries Registration Council to be carried out in the way originally envisaged.

The Government were not qualified to give Parliament a categorical assurance that as amended by this Bill the 1975 Act would serve the job it was meant to do.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Patents Bill completed its report stage.

House adjourned, 9.11 pm.

Mr. Meacher:—The question of whether there is a mutual reduction of tariffs must be seen in the changing pattern of trade and in the changing pattern of production. I think the extent of this assured market has yet quite produced the results which some have hoped for. He added later, "I think that, in the short term, there is no alternative in the short-term but to improve our competitiveness and productivity and to reduce the cost of production." He said that EEC, since there is no reason why in terms of manufactures, we cannot considerably reduce the cost of production.

Mr. John Nott, chief Opposition spokesman on trade (S. Ivor C.)—there any evidence to show that if we had not entered the Community, Germany would have sent the farmers' agents to our good evening Europe and vice versa. Our deficit would not have been greater than now?

Mr. Meacher:—The evidence on the question of the Exchange rate, of tariffs, and of differentials in domestic inflation rates are substantially more important

believe in competition.

Complaint over comments by Mr Paisley

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby, Lab.) raised as a matter of privilege certain comments made recently by the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim).

Today (he said) I received transcript of a BBC radio programme last Wednesday in which the hon member for North Antrim in an interview with Mr Claxop, referred to 'Jewid, immoral, foul'.

requests of the BBC on Thursday and Friday but they were unable to supply him with a transcript of the programme until today.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he would look into the matter raised by Mr Madden, but must give him warning now that he was unable at first glance that he might find it was barred by time.

‘Hansard’

error

explained

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he understood last Thursday to enquire into a complaint by Mr John Davies (Kangaroo, C) about an alteration in *Hansard*. He had since consulted the Editor of *Hansard*, and as a result he was satisfied the word “always” was inserted by the Prime Minister in the context to which Mr Davies referred. The omission from the record was a simple administrative error.

There was no evidence to suggest that the date deliberately or that it followed an intervention. The record would be corrected.

not go away. We shall have to come back to petrol tax. I think it would be the one indirect tax to decline of all indirect tax. I cannot believe that that is what the Opposition really want.

The Conservative were far from increasing indirect tax including selective ones. If this year, which year? 'Was not that year? We were not in favour of an increase that year. I think it was a very good idea to thoroughly irresponsible selectivity.

Mr David Howell, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs (Guildford, C)—Mr Barnett dragging himself to a wretched speech, and then saying that a case for 10 per cent VAT first that it did not fall on oil and transport and was less regressive. The restriction on 8 per cent had been made for technical reasons.

Mr Barnett—Mr Howell is liked, and is as irresponsible as the others, and is unimposed to explain his consistency.

The important thing was ensure that the reduction went to the suppliers, not the consumers. He was aware of the shared the concern that pe-

suppliers might take any action to reduce the number of the reduction to the motorist. He hoped suppliers would be the will of the House because he would be bound if they control to pass on raw cuts through into prices, although, if the Opposition had their way, the Government would not touch those powers.

I hope that suppliers (the same) all necessary steps to see the Government bound if they do not, the minister who deals with these matters will be ready to act on action.

Mr. Strock Exchange was closed, he could refer to matter of offset. If the Government amendment was passed, it would be a reversal until August 5, so he had to think to consider what offset that should be.

The Minister was, therefore, immediate. The decision on nature and extent and whether there needed to be any offset should be considered between 1957 and August 5.

They would be bound to introduce a Bill if they were in the passage of the Finance Bill. He hoped the Government amendment would be accepted and that the House would say Sir Geoffrey Howe, chief

ent spokesman on Treasury
affairs (East Surrey, C), said
that the government was con-
sidering the possibility of
in seeking the Chief Secretary
writing a wrecking amendment to
Finance Bill (Conservative
drawal of the duty increase
petrol.

There would have been a
sense in introducing
an increase in the flat rate
VAT which was spread over
great many products, was less
than the effect of the higher
effects which the Chancellor's
posal had given rise to.

The Chancellor had proposed
selective duties, which were
against those with no option
to the method by which it
travelled to work—those who
used their own cars. The
designed, ill-judged measure.
The relative rate of duty
being retained on duty. The tax
least levied being applied to
haulage and road passenger tra-
port industries—were having
the imposition of a new
£90m a year increase after fac-
toring extra taxation last year

[illegible]

House to shambles at least partly the misguided provisions that introduced in the budget.

There was, however, profound discontent at the way the Government had acted, particularly as certain parts of industry were highly taxed. The Government had outlived their time, their mandate and their usefulness.

Mr John Pardon (North Cornwall Lih) said Sir Geoffrey Howe ought to have sounded a little more g

2p cut in i

the overall assessment at the time of the Budget.

The Opposition wished to register their strong feelings about the proposed conditional tax cut announced by the Chancellor. Was the proposed tax cut from 35 per cent to 33 per cent, as presented in the amendment, sufficient to the achievement of a satisfactory pay deal or was it longer tied?

to stop EEC

governments of member states strengthen their machinery for scrutinizing the utilization opportunities and the financial inclusion of the common documents of undertakings was effective check. They should organized on an identical basis the authorities of member state. The inspection system should be able to cover the entire range of allowable considerable latitude. The directive should be implemented as soon as possible and the inspection system must be extended to all undertakings benefiting from the system of financial aid. The Commission will submit a RACGP, the committee stated.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Commissioner for budget, policy and financial control, said that the directive was an essential factor

Tottenham, Lab) said he hoped that if the amendment were passed, the Financial Secretary would make it his business to discuss with the petrol companies that they were under a wide social responsibility and could not expect to replace any of the reduction by an additional profit margin.

It would be like to see the road tax put on petrol instead of having £40 a year tax. That would be a direct way of making it pay for the excessive consumption of energy.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Fyfe (Tottenham, C) said if vehicle excise had been abolished and petrol was taxed on a per gallon basis, it would mean a person driving 4,000 miles a year in a car capable of 20 miles per gallon would be no worse off than a person driving 10,000 miles in their cars less miles in a year. If their cars were still indispensable, Mr Ronald Atkins (Preston, C) said that the Government must intend to consider abolishing vehicle duty and output the amount of tax instead on petrol and help to:

Mr Brian Welden (Birmingham, Labour) said the rate of direct taxation was far too high. It was a very simple matter to make it a little more progressive, so that the rich paid a sufficient

Budget deficit. It was true it was only \$140,000 but he was fearful it would be a precedent for the lack of a proper control of the Government's expenditure and Governor Barnett said that he would not allow it to be thrown away in the sands of summer with all sorts of consequences.

Mr Barnett said that the possibility of a further increase in the excise duty was being considered as the Chancellor had promised, but he was not sure whether it would be. He had problems with small domestic manufacturers in this country.

Mr Barnett said that he did not come back to increase petrol but he thought it would decline as the proportion of total taxation. The House of Commons had passed the Petroleum Amendment Bill and the Government had introduced an amendment because it was cheaper otherwise to that supported by the Opposition.

An Opposition amendment to the Government amendment might be introduced but it was not also applicable to derive a vote by 271 votes to 250 votes.

Mr William Clark (Croydon South, C) said the doubt over whether it would be 35 or 33 per cent was causing business a certain amount of administrative trouble.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab) said even when Lord Barber was talking about raising the rate to 35 per cent, he

small traders as well as the large ones being visited by inspectors and considered the possibility of varying the number of inspections annually while keeping up the average number of inspections. The scope of inspections would be reduced during an introductory period and the Committee has asked for the period to be shortened from three years to one. He welcomed that proposal which would be introduced in the Regulations by the Council of Ministers. Although he did not think that member states would agree to a shorter period than two years, most authorities would have to recruit inspectors to carry out the new provisions and they thought that a transitional period as short as 12 months was simply impossible.

There were substantial matters still to be negotiated between the British and United States Governments in negotiating a new Bermuda agreement for transatlantic air services. Mr. Norman Tebbit, British Minister for Trade, still hopes to get a new agreement by June 22 when the present one expires.

Mr. De la Motte, (b) answering requests for a progress report at the negotiations, said: The fifth round of negotiations for a new air agreement was held in Washington from March 28 to April 22. During my visit there on April 22, I met Mr. De la Motte, the negotiator reached with the United States ministers concerned.

Although some progress has been made, it is not yet important enough to be resolved. Negotiations resume in London on May 15 and it is hoped that a new agreement will be reached before the current agreement terminates on June 22.

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Watkinson) said that the British Minister expected, as opposed to hope, to get a new agreement before the old one expires on June 22. He said that the British Minister was clever idea to start negotiations six months before a change

Does he think the question of New York's landing rights for Concord being negotiated at the same time has made it more difficult or less difficult to get an agreement on a Concord agreement for British carders?

Mr Dell - I hope there will be an agreement by June 22. There are grounds in the negotiations to believe that the British will, of course, I cannot give a guarantee. There are substantial matters outstanding between the two governments.

As to whether it was sensible to start negotiation six months before the change of administration, I think it was. I think it was wise of nothing to persuade me that it was not.

It has proved possible in the last few days, most of the round of negotiation, which has ended, to discuss the matter substantially and make some progress.

And not to make the fact that we have had six months' open clearing period has hindered. It has, I believe, helped.

We do not await a decision in New York on the question of Concord. I have no comment to make on

much with

be helpful if directors of companies could indicate on the register—(laughter)—if the living directors could advise the Companies Registry of the fact that one of their number had departed this soil.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C)—The responsibility of a relatively small number of companies not to comply with their obligations under the

Company, which is a serious blot on commercial practice and damaging to the over-burdened majority, particularly of small businessmen who do their best in this manner?

He will have the support of the House if he clamps down on the irresponsible minority.

Mr. Clinton Davis—He is right. In response to that, we have stepped up the number of prosecutions in 1976, more or less doubling the position over the previous year. I hope Mr. Grant's observations will be taken to heart where it matters.

Changes

shows that the 1975 Act contained provisions which were inacceptable except by amendment, the Government welcomed a Bill to put those defects right and enable the work of the Fisheries Registration Council to be carried out in the way originally envisaged.

The Government were not qualified to give Parliament a categorical assurance that as amended by this Bill the 1975 Act would serve the job it was meant to do.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Patents Bill completed its report stage.

House adjourned, 9.11 pm.

believe in competition.

Complaint over comments by Mr Paisley

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby, Lab.) raised as a matter of privilege certain comments made recently by the Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim).

Today (he said) I received transcript of a BBC radio programme last Wednesday in which the hon member for North Antrim in an interview with Mr Claxop, referred to 'Jewid, immoral, foul'.

requests of the BBC on Thursday and Friday but they were unable to supply him with a transcript of the programme until today.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he would look into the matter raised by Mr Madden, but must give him warning now that he was unable at first glance that he might find it was barred by time.

'Hansard'

error explained

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said he had understood last Thursday to enquire into a complaint by Mr John Davies (Kearnsford, C) about an alteration in *Hansard*. He had since consulted the Editor of *Hansard*, and as a result he was satisfied the word "always" was inserted by the Prime Minister in the context to which Mr Davies referred. The omission from the record was a simple administrative error.

There was no evidence to suggest that he done deliberately or that it followed an intervention. The record would be corrected.

He still believed that the arguments for an increased petrol tax were sound. It was true that the impact would be marginal, but to reverse the situation and have a decline in petrol tax must be the wrong way to deal with conservation.

The alternative of a VAT increase would have a worse effect on retail price index, and on employment.

This problem (he continued) was

Tories see

On Clause 15 (Charge of Income tax for 1977-78), Mr David Howell

Proposal for

House to abandon at least part of the misguided provisions that introduced in the budget.

The was, however, profound discontent at the way the Government had acted, particularly as certain parts of industry were highly taxed. The Government had squandered their time, their money and their usefulness.

Mr John Pardee (North Cornwall Lib) said Sir Geoffrey Howe ought to have sounded a little more g

2p cut in i

the overall assessment at the time of the Budget.

the Community in the eyes of the public.

The committee welcomed the Commission proposals inviting governments of member states to strengthen their machinery for scrutinizing the utilization of appropriations and considered the introduction of the commercial documents of undertakings was an effective check. They should be organized on an identical basis for the authority of member states. The inspection system should be flexible and the authorities must be allowed considerable latitude.

The directive should be implemented as soon as possible and the inspection system must be extended to all undertakings benefiting from the system of financing under the guarantee section EAGGF, the committee stated.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the budget, monetary and financial control, said that the directive was an essential factor

rejected by 271 votes to 250—Government majority, 21, and the Government amendment was agreed to.

An Opposition amendment to delete the proposed increase in tax on industrial fuel—by 150 votes from 1p to 2.5p per ton—was rejected by 268 votes to 250—Government majority, 18.

A similar amendment relating commercial fuel was rejected by 269 votes to 250—Government majority, 19.

Income tax

all explained that this would be the

farm frauds

use of Lords

Earl of Kinross (C), moving second reading of the Sale of Goods Bill, said the Government might as well abolish the ancient gilds in any case, and that it would be removing certain discrepancies which existed.

The first objective was to help protect certain public or quasi-public land against the kind of land against which the lands mentioned in the Bill. The second objective was to put an end to the law which degrading operations on the land of the parish council (he said) strongly that these ancient proud titles which seem from the heart of the herbage should be offered as a title for a gild convention as the Lord of the Manor of Great Soar would some years ago. Having the Lordship over Amesbury, Japan and so on is degrading.

But, Under Secretary for the

ment's attitude to the Bill was one of benevolent neutrality. But at this late stage of the session, the Bill was only a slender chance of making progress in the Commons. She would not oppose second reading, but she wondered whether it was better to leave it on other ways of achieving the worthwhile objectives. Lord Kinross had in mind without going through what was possibly a tortuous piece of legislation.

Lord Sandford, for the Opposition, said he could give the Bill substance and provisions and much more to the Bill than met the eye and until this became more clear he wished to reserve judgment.

But he agreed to the transfer of the title of a manor to absentee and outsiders was an affront to the dignity and might of local communities and might hamper the development of recreational facilities on village greens. Sale by raffle was a scandal.

He would need a second time.

Changes

shows that the 1975 Act contained provisions which were inacceptable except by amendment, the Government welcomed a Bill to put those defects right and enable the work of the Fisheries Registration Council to be carried out in the way originally envisaged.

The Government were not qualified to give Parliament a categorical assurance that as amended by this Bill the 1975 Act would serve the job it was meant to do.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Patents Bill completed its report stage.

House adjourned, 9.11 pm.

The committee's findings on the use of the EAGGF for agricultural purposes under the common agricultural policy were welcomed in a report by the Committee on Budgets which was approved by Parliament.

A Commission directive suggests the inspection at least once every two years of the commercial documents and underlings whose receipts from the EAGGF are to guarantee section of the European agricultural guidance and guarantee fund (EAGGF) exceeds 100,000 units of account (\$41,600) a year.

The committee reported that on several occasions there had been errors or irregularities in the utilization of the EAGGF for agricultural purposes. These were although negligible in their financial implications, had damaged the image of the EAGGF and that of

small traders as well as the large ones being visited by inspectors and considered the possibility of varying the number of inspections annually while keeping up the average number of inspections. The scope of inspections would be reduced during an introductory period and the Committee has asked for the period to be shortened from three years to one. He welcomed that proposal which would be introduced in the Regulations by the Council of Ministers. Although he did not think that member states would agree to a shorter period than two years, most authorities would have to recruit inspectors to carry out the new provisions and they thought that a transitional period as short as 12 months was simply impossible.

Childminding has become fashionable, but it can't be done on the cheap

With public expenditure constraints effectively applying firm brakes to expansion in day care for the under-fives, childminding has suddenly become a fashionable topic. Ministers have enthusiastically taken up the idea of expanding childminding services as a low cost alternative to providing more nurseries or nursery schools.

Local authorities are beginning to take a keener interest by providing training, some social work support and, occasionally, the use of toy libraries.

The interest in childminding has, however, produced a flow of research reports that point consistently to two broad conclusions. First, the standard of childminding in Britain is depressingly low even when the minder is registered, has had some training, and enjoys some support from the local social services department. Second that if the quality of care provided by minders is to be improved it cannot be done on the cheap.

These findings have led to numerous demands that minders should be employed directly by social services departments and regarded as part of the day care staff. The idea has been suggested principally because it is believed that most minders offer a poor service because they are underpaid, work intolerably long hours, and are given far too little support from the social services.

The report of the first experiment to try out the idea in the London borough of Lambeth, is published today by the Department of the Environment (*The Groveway Project: An experiment in Salaried Childminding, LAS/LA/17, £1,601*). The experiment was part of the department's series of inner area studies.

Mrs Phyllis Willmott of the Institute of Community Studies thought up the idea after visiting a crèche familiale in France. In her view, the most important result is that the project demonstrates the potential contribution people in the local community can make to the official services, given support and encouragement.

The project broke new ground in several ways. Most importantly, it was centred on a local day nursery called Groveway which provided training, advice, toys and regular contacts with professional staff. Nursery staff visited minders in their own homes,

often bringing nursery children with them. The minders regularly took the children to the nursery.

Unlike most minders, who tend to work in isolation from each other and meet each other regularly and soon after the project began, spontaneously organised their own weekly social evenings. They were paid £20 a week (now £30) plus a daily expenses allowance of 50p for the second or third child they were minding.

Recruiting proved difficult, in spite of extensive local publicity. The aim was to create a team of 12 to 14 minders able to care for 30 children, but recruitment was slow and the project began with two minders. Eventually 10 were recruited and trained but two resigned. The number of places for children fluctuated with the number of minders available; the maximum number of places was 22. For most of the time the project was being monitored, there were eight minders available providing 19 places for children.

Most of the minders recruited were women who would not have considered minding in ordinary circumstances. Six were already in paid jobs, and four took a cut in salary when they became minders. None were working in any type of child care job, and most had no qualifications at all. They were given a six-week training course which gave them both a period of close daily contact with day care staff and an opportunity to increase their knowledge and strengthen skills in good child care practice.

The children to be minded were all taken from the priority list of the Groveway nursery, and were considered to be in greatest need of a place because their mothers needed to go out to work. In practice, some of the mothers were found to be using the project as an inexpensive and good quality day care for their children without having any intention of finding work. Their children were discharged from the project.

Most of the minded children were in one parent families, often living in poorer housing conditions than the minders. Some arrived irregularly, poorly dressed and hungry, and the minders found it difficult to understand or tolerate the attitudes of their parents in apparently missing

a service that they, as ratepayers, were helping to pay for. The minders were also frustrated in the early stages when there were delays in placing children with them, because they felt they were being paid for doing nothing.

Nevertheless, the report shows that many of the early difficulties were overcome and the minders themselves provided a much higher standard of care than is usual. Both the minders and the day nursery staff felt they had learned from each other.

Altogether, the minders cared for 34 children from 29 families during the monitoring period from the end of January 1975 to March 31, 1976. The fundamental need of most of the children was for a stable, loving experience of normal family care, the report says. "We have no doubts it was this that the minders were able to provide."

The original aims of the project were adequately met in all areas but one: it did not succeed in improving standards of all childminders in the area or in encouraging more to register. But it did succeed in improving the childminding of the women recruited for the project and in that the facilities of the day nursery and the skills of the staff played a crucial role. The nursery was also strengthened by having the additional resource of the new childminders, and the services provided proved acceptable to both parents and workers as a "distinctive alternative to day nursery care."

The report suggests that a similar salaried childminding service could be attached to other child care centres, like pre-school play groups or family centres. If it was extended to all day nurseries in Lambeth, it would provide an extra 360 places at a cost of £316,000 a year, or £164,000 less than providing them in day nurseries.

That would take two years to achieve, and still leave many children without the good quality of day care they need. The report suggests that advice centres should be set up to direct parents to the most appropriate form of day care for their children to avoid underuse or misuse of the existing scarce resources.

Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent



Getting value for money out of the social services

This year the country will spend £993m on personal social services. Despite that expenditure few not professionally involved could tell you what services are provided as a result of that spending, or give any clear indication of the priorities that they favour. In this respect, social services differ from other local authority services like education and housing about which most of us have definite opinions.

The early seventies saw an explosive growth in social services expenditure as a result of the reorganisation which followed the Seebohm Report with double digit growth rates commonplace. Yet this increase failed to produce evidently better services. The percentage of qualified social workers obstinately remained under 40 per cent as the expansion of training lagged behind the expansion in local authority establishment figures. The demands which the 1969 Children & Young Persons Act and the 1970 Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act would make on resources were judiciously underestimated in both local and central government, and the failure of departments to meet the needs of these client groups drew public criticism. The succession of child care tragedies which followed the death of Maria Colwell called into question the competence of social workers, even in those areas where their expertise had previously gone unquestioned. Now the squeeze on local government spending threatens even the maintenance of the existing inadequate levels of provision.

Faced with an increasing proportion of elderly in the population, especially those over 75, with rising demand fuelled by unemployment and inflation, and with pressures from the police and magistrates for more residential provision for juvenile offenders, social services departments urgently need to develop a long term strategy if they are not going to reel from one crisis to another.

The structure of local government does not readily accommodate a radical reassessment of resource allocation. The dearth of public debate about priorities in social services means that present patterns of provision tend to be perpetuated by the professional pursuit of incremental budgeting, which adds new developments to existing services justified because they always have been provided. Corporate management too has failed to break into the rigidly of demarcation lines between departments.

How then can a successful strategy be developed? From central government there needs to be a memorandum on any fresh legislation affecting personal social services until resources expand to meet existing demands. The zeal of politicians for existing solutions reached its nadir in the 1975 Children's Act, termed a

"Charter for Children" by Dr David Owen—was it a singularly worthless charter as it is unlikely to be fully implemented for a decade. But stopping the relentless press of legislation alone will not be enough unless consistent financial planning is possible. Only four years ago departments were told to plan for a growth rate of 10 per cent per annum, a figure scaled down in successive White Papers, to the present nil growth. It is far better to know that your budget will be static for five years than to plan for a growth that proves to be illusory.

Local government needs to exercise the potential which corporate management offers to see that resources are allocated rationally. Bluntly that means giving more to services for which demand is expanding and less to those for which demand is contracting, such as education. It means concentrating scarce resources on essential services and abandoning others like subsidising children in independent schools or the wider excesses of leisure and recreation departments. Above all it means giving up the political cowardice of across the board cuts, and instead making choices about which services really are crucial to the community.

Within the finance made available by political decisions at central and local government level, there remain crucial professional decisions. At present over 20 per cent of the social services' budget goes on residential care. Divided by client groups, the elderly take up the largest slice of expenditure. Bland phrases about concentrating resources on fieldwork and domiciliary services conceal the harsh reality of closing homes and moving old folk in their eighties and nineties from their familiar and cherished surroundings. Yet the danger in the present situation is that some services, like the home help service and meals on wheels, are being progressively eroded as they are cut a little at a time, year by year, to the point where their very utility becomes questionable. Outside London only one local authority offers a meals on wheels service which meets the guidelines laid down by the DHSS. The DHSS last year produced a consultative document on priorities for health and personal social services. It was a splendid document which confirmed what social workers already knew—that the Government saw everything in personal social services as a priority for expansion, but was unwilling to provide the cash to finance the priorities it identified.

A major transfer of resources from residential care to field and domiciliary services is essential if social services are going to cope within their existing budgets. That requires tough, and politically unpopular decisions. It would mean,

for instance, more, not less, juvenile offenders would be cared for while remaining in their own homes. This is not only good economic sense when a bed in a community home costs over £100 each week but offers better prospects of success with offenders. The clamour from police and magistrates for a return to the golden days of approved schools with their 70 per cent failure rates is indeed a triumph of hope over experience. Cutting residential expenditure would also mean that more old folk would remain at home supported through daily visits from home helps, meals services and volunteers or in sheltered housing. Admission to an old people's home would become a transitional phase while community help was mobilized or physical health restored instead of the final resting place it so often is now. Concentrating residential care on those for whom there really is no alternative would demand higher standards of training from residential staff. It is a national scandal that we entrust the physical and emotional well being of our most vulnerable citizens to departments who employ staff. Twenty-four out of every 25 staff have no relevant training.

Not only in residential care is there scope for more economic use of existing resources. Social workers are the front line troops of social services departments, expected to deal with a myriad of problems. The rapid growth of departments has led to a concentration of skill and experience in managerial and supervisory posts as departments have sprang extended hierarchies. Like other local government services, resources of skill need to be concentrated on those who actually work with the clients. Flatter hierarchies, and a career grade for practitioners, are essential if the most capable staff are not to seek advancement through management. Many of the tasks at present discharged by social workers could be performed equally well by auxiliaries or volunteers, leaving those who are left with social work tasks to concentrate on the more complex and demanding work.

Social workers feel aggrieved by the events of recent years. They feel that they have been let down by politicians, by the media and by the public which does not understand them. Yet the services they help to provide are essential to the maintenance of a humane and civilized community. Their ability to provide those services depends, however, on political choices. The sum of £993m is too much to leave to professionals alone.

Terry Bamford

The author is assistant general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers.

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HOW TO CHANGE COMMUNISTS

The west is now getting a great deal of advice from Soviet and east European dissidents on how to conduct its foreign policy. The advice falls roughly into two schools of thought. One demands a much tougher stance and accuses the west of moral turpitude. This school is represented mainly but not entirely by Russians with experience of prison camps, such as Mr Solzhenitsyn and Mr Bukovsky, whose eloquent Berlin speech we publish today on another page. The other school, while also holding that the west should bargain firmly, lays more emphasis on fostering a climate of political détente in the belief that this is more conducive to the liberalization of the communist systems. The two schools share the medium-term aim of gaining greater freedom for the people of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe but they differ on the short-term tactics for achieving this and on the long-term vision of the type of society which they hope will eventually emerge.

The main reason for the disagreement on tactics is that they start from different premises. Those who believe that the communist systems contain seeds of regeneration and liberalization, as seemed to be the case in Czechoslovakia in 1968, tend to look for an international climate in which these seeds will grow. They believe that a lower level of confrontation encourages liberalizers within the system. Those who believe the system is irredeemably evil or simply bureaucratically petrified believe it can be driven to change only by pressure from abroad and from citizens working outside the system. This view has won more converts in eastern Europe since the hopes of spontaneous liberalization, which were so prevalent in the 1960s, have failed.

On the whole western policy has sought a middle road which mixes concessions with pressure in the belief that total confrontation leads more easily to war and also deprives the west of levers and bargaining counters which

can be gained through a measure of cooperation. The compromises which this policy inevitably involves has provoked a lot of criticism from the tougher school of dissidents. It is difficult to take issue with this criticism without seeming to reject it, but the attempt must be made. In many ways the criticism is both valid and valuable. It cannot be shrugged off merely because it comes from men whose crucial experience is of prison, not diplomacy.

In the case of Mr Bukovsky it comes from a man who has suffered with enormous courage to defend his integrity and to tell the world about the torture of political dissidents in Soviet mental hospitals. He has intimate knowledge of the small concessions and betrayals that lead to greater ones, of the importance of moral conviction and the value of western support. He has earned his right to speak, and those who think like him are important because they force us to confront the moral purposes of our diplomacy, to ask whether certain compromises are being made merely for the sake of a more comfortable life, and whether we are really using the levers we claim to have won through negotiation. It also reminds us that Russians on both sides of the official fence are liable to see willingness to compromise as a sign of weakness where we see it as strength, so that their whole approach to diplomacy can be different from ours.

Where Mr Bukovsky is wrong is not so much in his advice as in his understanding of what the western countries have been trying to do, which is not all that different from what he is trying to do. The question is mainly one of means rather than ends. The sterile confrontation in Europe and the oppression of eastern Europe cannot be changed by war and was not noticeably changed for the better during the extreme confrontations of the cold war, when moral absolutism was at its height on both sides. Improvements have come only since the

level of enmity has diminished and the willingness to talk, trade and to negotiate has increased. Inevitably this has meant compromises and more contact with governments, but whereas Mr Bukovsky sees this as a betrayal of peoples it has seemed to western governments a way of helping peoples.

The same principle applies to the Helsinki agreements which Mr Bukovsky castigates for being about cooperation with rulers rather than ruled, and for providing loopholes through which the west can make yet more concessions. Here he is utterly wrong. The western countries negotiated very firmly and in the end successfully to ensure that the freer flow of people and information which the agreement was supposed to foster was not subordinated entirely to government control or confined to official exchanges. All Soviet attempts to exclude references to individuals or to emphasize the rights of governments in this field were defeated. The actual texts of the agreement came out almost wholly to the advantage of the west.

Implementation is another matter. The aim of the Belgrade meeting which starts in June, and is likely to drag on for many months, is to monitor implementation which so far has been disappointing. The western countries are not, as Mr Bukovsky alleges, preparing to give up demands which they might have made. Nor is there much sign that they are swallowing false information. What they are trying to do is to find the best way of promoting implementation of the agreement while keeping the whole process going. Perhaps they will not find the right mixture, or will not try hard enough, which is why they should listen to Mr Bukovsky's warnings. But if they had heeded the views of his friends and allies at an earlier stage they would not have entered the Helsinki negotiations at all, which would have deprived him of the very texts he is now citing. He gives no credit where credit is due.

DO WE REALLY LOVE GUMMY LITTLE ATOMS?

If we stop to think, we all know that a gift and a free gift are two different things. "Free" as in "free school" or "free NHS treatment" or "Free Democratic Republic" is often an insidious qualifier. But the distinction is easily overlooked even the great Oxford Dictionary, having defined a gift in terms of transference of property voluntarily and without any valuable consideration, etc., refers to a "free gift" in passing without noting that it is using the word in a sense unacknowledged by itself. The "free" kind of gift is merchandise offered in exchange for trading stamps or coupons given instead of a simple cash discount on the purchase of other items. The supplier is obliged to redeem stamps returned to him, and the "gifts" are ultimately paid for out of the retailer's profits—that is, by the customers themselves.

Surely everyone would rather have cash? It is clear that they would not. The Tesco supermarket chain, the largest retailer, has just decided to withdraw from the trading stamp business. The rapid expansion of the 1960s is a thing of the past, and the petrol crisis of 1974 was a severe setback. But the business is by now so large and so diverse, and the fact that many shoppers actually enjoy collecting the stamps is so well established, that the rapid disappear-

ance of the gummy little atoms of value is not to be looked for. Tesco believe that in these hard times people are becoming keener to receive discounts in a form that they can spend at once and as they wish. The balance of advantage for the retailer may be changing, at any rate for the smaller shops with high overheads that are common in the Tesco chain. Petrol stations that offer cash discounts as an alternative to stamps are also finding that many drivers prefer cash. But somebody somewhere will always be looking for just another hundred stamps to fill up his book.

It is not necessary to be unduly censorious. Trading stamps clearly provide innocent pleasure to innumerable philatelists. They are an aid to saving, though an inefficient one. It is said that 71 per cent of the adult population collect them, though it would be unsafe to assume that all or even most of them do so willingly. If one leaves the things on the counter they look like an insulting tip; they resemble money too much to throw away without a pang; usually they end up stuck fast to the frozen peas. The trading stamp companies, like other enterprises, are rightly concerned to affirm their respectability, have gone into sponsorship of sports and young people's activities. Green Shield provides special extra discounts for charitable

causes (a scheme that more than 12,000 groups took advantage of in 1975). The Act of 1964 eliminated the worst abuses of the trade. It also gave the holder the right to insist on the redemption in cash of any number of stamps worth more than 25p (this is not a requirement that the companies have been much concerned to publicize).

As a general stimulus to trade, stamps may have done the economy some service. Perhaps it is more likely that their main effect has been to redistribute trade among competitors, and to the disadvantage of the small shopkeeper. In several EEC countries their issue is severely restricted on the ground that they tend to restrict competition and assist the growth of monopolies. They certainly constitute a disguised loan from the purchaser to the supplier until he redeems his stamps (and a genuine free gift if he fails to do so). They are often accused of keeping prices artificially high, though in strict terms it is not clear that they do. In a decade or two, no doubt, the EEC will adopt rules for their restraint throughout the Community. In the meantime there is every prospect that they will survive, to delight the collector and vex the rest of us. It is worth knowing that if one uses twisters when steaming them apart, one is less likely to scald one's fingers.

ELECTORAL METHODS IN SIERRA LEONE

For a government party to contest an election with a genuine opposition party is so rare an event in Africa, where "one-party democracy" preponderates, that it is said not to be able to welcome the results of the poll in Sierra Leone as a real voters' choice. On the contrary, a free and fair election would almost certainly have unseated President Stevens' Government. He made sure of its victory by his All Peoples Congress by methods akin to those alleged against President Rhunjo in Pakistan—indeed, taking scale into consideration, what happened in Sierra Leone was arguably far worse.

The Sierra Leone Christian Council and the Trade Union Council are demanding an inquiry into violence, intimidation, illegality and corruption, while it is reported that the Solicitor-General is under pressure to prosecute four ministers on charges of murder committed during the last days of the campaign. The election of thirteen of the Sierra Leone

Peoples Party candidates in the conditions that have prevailed for weeks is itself noteworthy and a testimony to the country's anger. It is typical that, because the APC realizes that it might lose three more seats in Bo (which threw the APC strong arm men out of town) the elections there have been deferred by decree.

President Stevens' APC won 76 seats, of which 50 were unopposed, despite every effort by the SLEP to put up candidates—several of those who tried were jailed. The contrast with the recent elections in the Gambia are complete: there the opposition party fielded a full quiver of candidates in an election reckoned to be perfectly fair, so that Sir Dawda Jawara's victory by three-quarters of the vote is beyond cavil. President Stevens' doubts about his party's chances may be judged from such instances as the use of tear gas at polling stations where SLEP—in Freetown—did manage to get candidates on the ballot paper. The toll of death and injury will be heavy, and follows

the bloodshed that occurred before the campaign, which was forced on the President by widespread protests that began with his humiliation in the university under a hail of accusations of corruption.

Yet eight years ago, Dr Stevens was elected legally, and after an army coup, managed to assert his constitutional right to everyone's pleasure. For a few years the country was run well, and in the tradition of western democracy on which it used to pride itself. But by 1973 he was under severe criticism. He began to surround himself with bodyguards from Guinea, as well as local undesirable, turned on his former supporters, and won the elections in 1975 by methods which were a forerunner of those used in recent weeks. At present he rules not by the results of the poll, but by grace of his Internal Service Unit and riot police. The elections, however, were not in vain: they have publicly demonstrated that he cannot and does not rule by consent. That in itself is a lesson to some of his peers in Africa.

Planning for bicycles

From Mr John Hunter
Sir, I write in reply to the correspondence you suggested on April 29 that cyclists should be allowed to use bus lanes.

Cyclists are already privileged in several ways. They are not required by law to licence their bicycles, as motorists, for instance, are required to licence their cars. They do not need to get their bicycles through any sort of safety test comparable to the MOT test for cars and motor-cycles. They are allowed to go on the roads without passing so much as a simple test to prove that they know the simple facts of road safety and so on. Finally, a large proportion of cyclists appear to ignore completely traffic signs and to have

no road sense whatsoever, thus endangering not only themselves, but other road users.

Should they be allowed to use the bus lanes? I wonder if they should be allowed to use the roads at all. Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUNTER,
30 Offshore Road,
Southgate, N14
April 29.

Conservative students

From Mr S. M. Swerling
Sir, Ronald But's excellent and timely article (May 5) must strike a responsive chord in a vast majority of Conservatives (notwithstanding the special pleading by your contributors to today's letters column, May 7), and not least among the thousands of Young Conservative Students whose idealism is deserving of a better leader than that seemingly offered by Mr Forsyth of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Mr Forsyth would appear to posture a somewhat hedonistic approach to everyday life, devoid of any reference to either basic Christian values or traditional Tory precepts; instead he seems to be advancing a form of undiluted Beuhmian liberalism.

Nor does Mr Forsyth seem to understand the limitations and constraints placed upon the use of private property. For instance, town and country planning laws and compulsory purchase powers, to name but two features, serve to ensure that there is no such thing as a "freedom to do what you like with your private property", however regrettable this may be. Even testators no longer have an absolute freedom to dispose of their property as they see fit because of family provision legislation.

It is therefore specious and dangerous to attempt to draw an analogy between economic and political freedom as called for by Mr Forsyth's desire to want to do when the premise upon which his argument is based is so fallacious: indeed, it is depressing that someone of Mr Forsyth's evident ability and influence should be preaching such a false doctrine in the name of Conservatism.

Yours faithfully,
S. M. SWERLING,
Chairman, Political Committee,
Sir Marylebone Conservative Club,
20 Osborn Place, W1.
May 7.

Labour and the banks

From Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham (Labour)
Sir, Now that the big four banks are to go on the offensive against the Labour Party it must inevitably be the case that the Labour Party must be able to counter the offensive. At this time Mr Moneybags—or even his stepdaughter, Miss Goldie Banks-Haven.

Whoever it is they must try to project the image that the banks—as they stand at present—are quite capable of running both their own and the country's affairs quite successfully.

But have they? Why, for instance, was it necessary for the Government to set up the National Enterprise Board? Why did the banks go to the rescue of Rolls Royce, Ferranti, Leyland, Harbors, or any of the other commanding heights of the economy? What ever happened to British shipbuilding or the aerospace industry? Why did the banks rescue a post guarantee system like the Government?

The answer is that the banks are not at present designed to function in the way I've suggested. That's why the Labour Party have proposed a new banking system. But there are many other good reasons too.

Within the next 15 or 20 years Britain will be very near a cashless society. That is to say—it will not be necessary to carry around either cheques books or money. Stamps will be fitted with credit terminals wired to a central clearance system.

The point is: it will not be possible in future for any one of the big four to go it alone. And who will make the national telecommunications network to make this modern concept possible?—The GPO of course.

So why don't we say to the banks' customers that if they want a future in a modern, ultra-efficient banking system, they must start thinking in terms of a state bank. Wage earners will want their wages paid through the system which will give them the most universal, less expensive facilities.

But first, the nation will have to ignore the bank manager's advice to vote Tory. Electors will have to vote for the party giving them the best banking system. Come to think of it—if the banks put political leaders on their bank counters, why not Labour leaders in post offices, or bus conductors giving out leaflets to their passengers? The possibilities are endless.

Yours,
NORMAN ATKINSON,
Member of the Labour Party,
House of Commons.

A British Brookings

From Mr Robert Belgrave
Sir, Many people in industry support the objectives of a "British Brookings" and will welcome the initiative implied in the letter today (May 6) from Sir Eric Roll and Lord Trevelyan.

Perhaps the American model of Brookings with its massive resources of scholarship and money, is not well suited to this country's modest means and less formal methods of decision-making. But whatever the merits of diversity, the fact is that the proliferation of institutes dissipates the available effort.

Co-ordinating committees are not enough. If two or three existing institutes would join together, then experts, writers and decision-makers from all sectors of the community and all shades of opinion could come together to seek a consensus on the facts underlying our common problems and even on some of the measures needed to resolve some of them.

Yours truly,
ROBERT BELGRAVE,
Belmont House,
Moor Lane, EC2.

After the Summit: restoring incentives

From Sir Derek Ezra
Sir, At their recent meeting, the Seven Statesmen regarded it as their most urgent task "to create more jobs while continuing to reduce inflation". They also committed themselves to "sustained non-inflationary growth".

The reconciliation of economic growth with the control of inflation remains the overriding dilemma facing industrialized nations in their domestic and, indeed, external policies.

This dilemma is particularly acute in Britain, where our inflation rate is nearly the highest among major industrialized countries. Is there a way out, without rocking the boat?

There is a first opportunity of reconciling these objectives in the next phase of pay policy. It is now becoming increasingly clear that a tightly restrictive policy, on the lines of the first two phases, would not be tolerable. The alternative of a free-for-all would have obvious dangers. The debate therefore must be concentrated on the middle course.

I would like to suggest that such a middle course would have the best chance of succeeding if it effectively reintroduced the concept of incentive. If, in other words, we could see a move from a negative to a positive policy in regard to wages and salaries.

Three issues stand out. First, the reduction of the debilitating impact of direct taxation. The Chancellor has already taken some first steps in this direction: more needs to be done. Secondly, the correction of the demotivating effect of squeezed differentials. Thirdly, the introduction of effective and self-financing incentive schemes.

It could be argued that such measures would involve considerable risks and that it would be better to wait until inflation was brought more effectively under control. But, against this, there is the serious risk on morale and effort of unduly prolonging restrictive policies. The risk which I believe is worth taking is to move during the course of this year from policies that restrain to policies that stimulate and encourage. Has the time not now come when we should seek, by positive action, to mobilize the considerable reserves of capacity and skill possessed by British management and workforce alike?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA,
Chairman of the Council,
British Institute of Management,
Management House, 1, Grosvenor Gardens, W1,
Parker Street, WC2.
May 9.

Television freedom

From Mrs Grace Wyndham Goldie
Sir, I was much struck by a relationship which I noticed on Friday, May 6, between your impressive leader

about the need for a new assessment of the responsibilities of the USA (emphasized by President Carter's attendance at the London summit) and an interesting article in the same issue entitled "President Carter adopts the ways of the Ugly American".

In this article, Mr Hugh Hanning, director of the British Atlantic Committee, put forward the view that President Carter, unlike Dr Kiesinger, seems to be appealing (notably on such subjects as human rights and the need to limit the arms trade) to the peoples of the world and is not content on these matters to deal solely with governments. Mr Hanning clearly approves of this stance. Moreover, he sees it as an inevitable result of the development of powerful new methods of international communication, chief of which is television.

As one who has been concerned for many years with the world impact of television and actively engaged in the production of television programmes which might, and possibly did, have an impact upon the world scene, I must agree with Mr Hanning that the effect of television on the pace of change in the world and the democratization made inevitable by the fact that television is usually received by individuals in a domestic setting, has a yet barely been grasped by policy makers.

This is a long-term problem: but the immediate matter raised by Mr Hanning's article is whether, in the contemporary world, at a time when television in so many countries is totally dominated by governments it is in fact possible to separate people from the governments who decide what their peoples are able to see on television and, as a result, to free the development of television in other words. Mr Hanning's interpretation of the Carter policies is correct, and it is convincingly argued, then the freedom of television from government domination is an essential aspect of President Carter's world policies.

Yours faithfully,
GRACE WYNDHAM GOLDIE,
86 St Mary Abbots Court, W14,
May 9.

Starting salary £60,000

From Mr Philip Jones
Sir, Dr Baron's disclosure (letters, etc.) of colleagues crossing the Channel for starting salaries of £60,000 as against £7,500 in Britain prompts the question, When is enough enough? Have the days gone forever when a man could say "Thank you very much, but I need a few more money, I can manage very nicely on what I'm getting"? Or have we now reached a stage of civilized development where nothing will ever satisfy us?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP JONES,
53 Kingsway,
Orpington, Kent.

The money supply

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, I welcome the intellectual progress shown in Professor Friedman's latest pronouncement (Letters, May 2) though my welcome would be warmer if he had made his important concessions to intellectual sanity in a more straightforward manner and with better grace. In a previous issue (Letters Bank Review, October, 1970) Professor Friedman did not go beyond the admission that his statistical evidence is not inconsistent with the hypothesis that non-monetary factors making for inflation are responsible (in part at least) for the increases in the money supply rather than the other way round.

In his present letter he goes further and specifies these factors as "the potential for real economic growth, the rate of expectations, the exchange rate regime, and the course of prices in the rest of the world". To anyone who has read my recent presidential address to the Royal Economic Society (Economic Journal, December, 1976) it will be evident that Professor Friedman's latest position comes much closer to mine than would appear from the tone of his letter.

There remains, however, one substantive point of difference. The important omission (which your readers may have noted) from Professor Friedman's list of the factors making for inflation are trade unions. In particular he shows no awareness of the role of the collective bargaining system in causing the rates of wage increases obtained in key negotiations to be quickly diffused throughout the economy. I am confident that the events of the next year or two in the UK will cause the good Professor—with a lag which I cannot predict—to fall into line on this point, too.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.
May 6.

From Mr Roger Turling and Mr Frank Wilkinson
Sir, The present discussion about the money supply and price inflation started with a clear and precise statement of the "monetarist" position by William Rees Mogg (July 13, 1976), who argued that the percentage rise in the retail price index was to be equal to the percentage rise in the money supply (less any growth in real output) which had occurred two years previously. He attributed the discovery of this "law" to Dr Friedman of Chicago. In a letter to Mr Rees Mogg quoted in *The Times* of August 23, 1976, Professor Friedman

reassured Mr Rees Mogg that he had indeed been correctly interpreted ("You certainly have not misread my theory"), making the reservation only that he was not alone responsible for "the discovery" of the two year time lag.

Our contention is that the statistical evidence is strongly contrary to this simple view. In our article "Inflation and the Money Supply" we were concerned to test this hypothesis and argued that for it to be supported it is necessary that in the regression equation linking prices to the money supply, the sum of coefficients on money supply growth should be insignificantly different from unity and the constant should be negative. This, and not the size of R^2 (as Friedman erroneously suggests), is the relevant test of the hypothesis.

On this test, our statistical findings reject this hypothesis for the period 1960-73. The constant was significantly positive implying, contrary to Mr Rees Mogg's statement, that a zero growth in the money supply would be accompanied by a positive rate of inflation, while the sum of coefficients was significantly less than unity implying that changes in the inflation rate would be far smaller than those in the rate of growth of the money supply.

Regrettably, we did not make this conclusion explicit in the text of our article and instead made an irrelevant observation that the money supply coefficients were individually insignificantly different from zero—a point which Professor Friedman justifiably takes us to task, though we do not consider that strictures on our remarks are relevant to the main issue.

We note, however, that Professor Friedman now abandons Mr Rees Mogg's simple thesis when he says that "many factors affect the precise rate of inflation that will follow a given rate of monetary growth, most notably the potential for real growth, the state of expectations, the exchange rate regime, and the course of prices in the rest of the world". (Our italics.)

Professor Friedman also states that our "most egregious error" was to misapprehend the relationship between expansion of the money supply and the growth of real output (as distinct from the rise in prices). Whether this is true or not, it is up to him or his British disciples to put forward what they regard as the correct specification for Britain and to produce the test for it.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER TURLING,
FRANK WILKINSON,
Department of Applied Economics,
University of Cambridge,
Sidwick Avenue,
Cambridge.

The Western Sahara

From Mr Jeremy Swift and Mr John Grettton
Sir, The Moroccan Ambassador writes (April 19) "Morocco has not annexed the Sahara. Morocco has liberated it from Spain and the International Court of Justice recognizes the right of the Saharans to self-determination. The United Nations Court recognized that there had been legal ties of a sort linking the Sahara and Morocco, it went out of its way to insist that these were not such as to affect the basic issue of self-determination."

The Ambassador also stated that the international maritime agree-

ment of November 14, 1975, between Morocco, Spain and Mauritania was approved by the UN. This is true. In his concern to put the record straight, however, he should perhaps have added that the UN also passed, at the same time, a resolution condemning the agreement. Common to both resolutions was a reference to self-determination, something which has been conspicuously denied to the Saharans, notably by Morocco.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY SWIFT,
JOHN GRETTON,
The Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights,
60 Weymouth Street, W1.
May 5.

Newspapers in London

From Mr L. J. Cadbury
Sir, There has been much talk recently about the future of London papers, this time evening. It is perhaps interesting to recall some of the facts when late in 1960 "Associated" and The Daily News Ltd arranged mergers between the *News Chronicle* and the *Daily Mail* and *The Star* and *Evening News*.

Circulation figures, pre-merger, were (in thousands):

Daily Express	4,124
Daily Mail	2,074
News Chronicle	1,167
Evening News	1,132
Star	735
Evening Standard	564

Two months after the merger the figures were:

Daily Express	4,359
Daily Mail	2,322
Evening News	1,543
Evening Standard	639

Current circulation figures are:

Daily Express	2,556
Daily Mail	1,800
Evening News	513
Evening Standard	424

One of the immediate reasons for bringing about the merger was the appearance of London commercial television which covered roughly the same area as the offices from which *The Star* drew its advertising revenue. *The Star* had previously contributed a modest profit to the holding company and carried a valuable part of the London overheads. As a result of a violent switch from press to television advertising *The Star* made a disastrous slide to the red.

As was anticipated, there was a howl of indignation at the mergers, most of it personal and chiefly from those who had no knowledge of Fleet Street economics and the violent criticisms that there had been no prior consultation. As a result of the mergers the *Daily News* Ltd received £2m, part in consideration of the *News Chronicle's* circulation retained by the *Daily Mail*. The directors decided to give the money to the ex-employees. This was before the days of compensation for loss of office and was held illegal in court at the instigation of a shareholder who was not a member of the family. Nevertheless this obstacle was overcome and the scheme proceeded. The shareout was by no means an easy exercise as the *Daily News* Ltd had over 3,000 persons of varying ages and lengths of service on their books in London and Manchester. However, the operation went through successfully and the trustees still hold funds to assist survivors in financial difficulties.

Yours sincerely,
L. J. CADBURY,
Director, *Daily News* 1922, Chairmen 1930,
The Davids,
Northfield,
Birmingham.
May 6.

Protecting inefficiency

From Mr Alan Maynard
Sir, Your report (*The Times*, May 5) of Keith Hampson's anguish over the attempts of her Majesty's Government to stifle the development and perhaps even kill off the Independent University at Buckingham is surprising. A careful examination of government activity since the last war indicates that one of its major functions is to protect inefficiency and stifle innovation.

Examples of this type of behaviour abound. Only recently Bernard Levin has examined in your columns the laudable behaviour of the Post Office which is currently protected by Gerald Kaufman, Tony Benn has by allocating monies to Concorde, protected an inefficient aircraft industry. The Health government protected inefficiency in Rolls Royce and on Upper Clyde. Both parties have protected inefficient practices in the National Health Service by failing to implement efficiency monitoring of resource allocation.

Surely the natural corollary of this is that the Government should, with academic's assistance, attempt to prevent the development of an institution which by producing "graduates" in two years (with four terms of ten weeks per year I believe) will be reaching more at a lower cost? If Buckingham graduates were accepted as comparable with those of UGC financed universities, might not the implication be that "State" universities could have their budgets cut by one third? No "right minded" Minister or bureaucrat would follow a policy which reduced the size of his department, and all State employed academics would support them with their votes so that "standards" (and their jobs) could be maintained.

We know as little about "standards" and the cost-effectiveness of alternative teaching modes in higher education as we do about similar things in other levels of education. While this state of affairs is permitted to continue pressure groups will be able to use their power to thwart the development of radical alternatives; their prejudices cannot be confounded by facts.

Mr Hampson should not be surprised by current public policy towards University College Buckingham: it is part of a long and dishonourable tradition going back over many decades of government by Labour and his own party. Yours faithfully,
ALAN MAYNARD,
Department of Economic and Related Studies,
University of York,
Heslington, York.
May 5.

Three cheers

From Lt Col J. H. McGivering
Sir, Three Cheers indeed (and of course nine Hips) for the Lord Chancellor for a charming gesture. We were trained to shout "Hurrah!"
Yours Obedient Servant,
J. H. MCGIVERING,
17 Adlestone Park,
Adlestone,
Weybridge, Surrey.
May 7.

A Hawkins line by new CEEB chief

By Roger Vielvoe
Energy Correspondent

Mr Glyn England, in his first public statement after taking over as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board yesterday morning, disclosed that he was opposed to nationalized industries undertaking without compensation unwanted capital projects deemed by government to be in the national interest.

He stressed he was talking about "broad principles" and carefully avoided any comment on the controversy on the advanced ordering of the second stage of the Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire that marked the closing weeks in office of his predecessor, Sir Arthur Hawkins.

Sir Arthur provoked a bitter row between the generating board and the Department of Energy by declining to give an undertaking to Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, that he would place an order for the £600m power station without compensation.

The CEEB claimed that bringing forward the order by two years could cost up to £180m in extra interest charges, which should be covered by the Government.

Mr England is clearly anxious to improve relations between his board and the Department of Energy but he does not see his new role as pushing through policies that Sir Arthur had opposed. His job, he said, was not to be the servant of the minister but a servant of the

electricity consumer, by doing all he could to hold increases in the price of electricity below the rate of inflation.

But in Whitehall, where it is hoped that Mr England will be more flexible in meeting government "requests", his words must have an ominous ring, as they are, in a less aggressive way, expressing the sentiments often expressed by Sir Arthur.

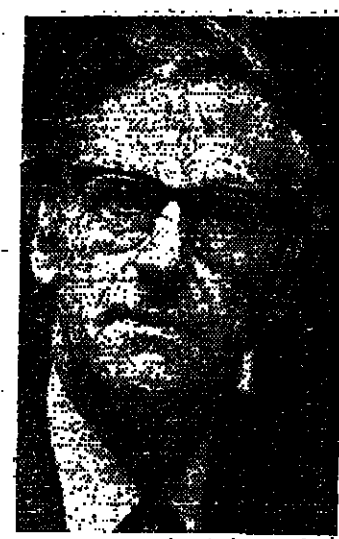
Mr England, who comes to the CEEB from the chairman'ship of the South Western Electricity Board, admits that the relationship between the board, ministers and civil servants is "not satisfactory" and he will be doing all he can to improve it.

The general problem, he said, was characterized by a lack of

trust on both sides. He was sorry that the Fulton Committee's recommendation that there should be an interchange of personnel between the nationalized industries and government ministries had not been more fully implemented.

Mr England, as chairman of an area board, knows well the feeling within the supply industry that the generation side of the business is too powerful. He said he plans to consult with the Electricity Council before taking important decisions.

He is also unconvinced on the question of which nuclear system should be used for the next commercial order in Britain.



Mr England: Axious for better relations.

Groups asked to aid component makers

By Kenneth Owen

Large manufacturing companies should "accept a positive responsibility" for developing British sources for components and machines which they were now importing, Sir Ronald McIntosh, Director-General of the National Economic Development Office, urged yesterday.

Speaking at a technology transfer conference in London, Sir Ronald said that the impact of prolonged inflation on company finances had hit particularly hard the medium-sized and smaller engineering companies which produced machines and components.

This had led many of their British customers to turn to foreign sources for machines and components. If these were satisfactory there was no incentive to go back to the British supplier.

"I believe that this process has now gone so far that a special effort is needed to reverse it", Sir Ronald said. Large companies should accept the responsibility to develop United Kingdom sources of components and machines.

"But the better question", he continued, "might often be for the larger user to help independent suppliers."

Sir Ronald stressed the "great damage" which the inflation of recent years had done to industry's research and development performance.

Mr Anthony Rawlinson, Second Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, said that United Kingdom expenditure on R and D was only about 7 per cent of that of the Western world.

British motor and component manufacturers are sending a team to the Strasbourg headquarters of the European Parliament today to press for a stronger and more united approach to the problems of the European motor industry.

The society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, after months of careful planning, has persuaded 60 members and officials of the Strasbourg Parliament to meet the team.

But the society's biggest success is the presence of Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the Commission, and two key commissioners, Signor Guido Brunner in charge of energy, and Mr Richard Burke, transport.

The party is led by Mr David Plazow, president of the SMMT and chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motors.

British car delegates seek joint EEC voice

By Clifford Webb

Last night, he told Business News: "This is a very important step by the British motor industry. We want to ensure that the European motor industry has a strong voice in the councils of the EEC."

"For instance, there is urgent need for action to coordinate legislation which makes life so difficult for one of the most important industries within the community."

"We must also speak with one voice when dealing with international matters affecting the motor industry."

A subject which will figure prominently in today's discussions is the EEC's attitude to the continuing success of Japanese motor imports and the need for a united approach to offset the strength of Japan's manufacturers.

Tighter laws soon on advertising

By Ronald Emier

Further legislation to govern the advertising industry can be expected soon, Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, said in London yesterday.

Speaking to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, Mr Borrie said that the dividing line between the industry's system of self-regulation and legal control "may not now be in exactly the right place."

He said he hoped that the Trade Descriptions Act, which was amended to include "stronger control over the advertising and description of services."

One sector Mr Borrie singled out was property advertising. Making a false statement about a house for sale "will soon be a criminal offence", he said.

The present Act excludes services from its coverage and it is widely thought that it will be extended to regulate traders such as dry cleaners and garages who offer services within a specified time or to a specified quality.

Mr Borrie said he was "interested" in EEC proposals for the issuing of "cease and desist" orders for dealing with relatively minor abuses, thus making them a civil offence.

This, and other proposals within the EEC draft directive on misleading advertising, would form "an important part of the future of advertising control."

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Bankruptcies in year doubled

Bankruptcies and liquidations in the last 12 months were more than double the 1973 figure, it was disclosed in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Under Secretary for Trade, told Mr David Mitchell (C, Basingstoke) that, in the period up to March 31, 1977, there were 6,349 receiving an administration order and 9,311 company liquidations in England and Wales. The figures were 62 per cent up on 1972 and 110 per cent up on 1973, he said.

Little change in pay shares

The pay explosion of 1974 to 1975 had almost no effect on the distribution of incomes in the United Kingdom except to cut the share of the top one per cent of the population.

Even more surprisingly, in view of recent comment, there was no significant impact on the distribution of post-tax pay, in spite of the impact of fiscal drag, of any but the top 10 per cent of the population.

The only significant change in the share-out of pre-tax earnings to emerge in a study published today in *Economic*

Attempt to solve steel strike fails

A peace move to seek a solution to the unofficial strike by electricians at British Steel's Port Talbot works, the industry's largest plant failed yesterday.

Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, met the shop stewards committee and also sought talks with management. But Dr Grievs, BSC's director of industrial relations, refused to take part in joint talks.

Increased orders go to German manufacturers

New orders received by West German manufacturing industry rose by an adjusted 1.4 per cent in March over February, the Economics Ministry said in Bonn yesterday.

The total order index stood at a provisional 150 at the end of March against 148 in both February and March, the ministry said.

For domestic orders, the March index was 135 against 136 in February and 138 in January, with 201 for foreign orders against 188 in February and 180 in January (base year 1970).

The ministry said 1977 order statistics still have to be treated with care because of changes in the calculation method.

Retailers are again hit by sharp cutback in buying

By Caroline Atkinson

Sales of durable goods slumped by 8 per cent in the first three months of this year, after a disastrous month for retailers in March.

There was an even sharper fall in overall retail trade during March than was estimated in the provisional figures published three weeks ago.

Yesterday's final figures from the Department of Trade showed a 3.2 per cent drop in the total volume of shop sales between the last quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of this year.

This picture of a cutback in spending by consumers, whose pockets have been hit by pay policy and rising prices, is particularly marked in the durable goods sector, although it is by no means confined to this.

Food shops have suffered a 3.4 per cent fall in the volume of their turnover in the three months to March, compared to the previous quarter. Most of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Danger to mineral reserves

From Professor R. N. Pryor

Sir, Mr Dunn has written that Britain has enough economically recoverable coal reserves to last for 300 years at present rates of production (*The Times*, May 4).

Professor Sir Hugh Ford has underlined the need for the conservation of energy resources and in particular "non-fossil" resources (May 5). Mr Ministers has questioned the definition of economically recoverable reserves (May 6).

The apparent controversy over whether we have or have not sufficient mineral reserves to satisfy our needs cannot be answered in a simple statement of average reserves divided by consumption. The recent debate over oil reserves of the North Sea, provoked by Professor Odeh highlighted the issue.

Economically recoverable reserves of oil minerals are dynamic variables depending upon many diverse factors. Any attempt at their assessment or even their future trend requires substantial qualifications in technical terms. That exercise can and should be attempted, provided that the limitations and qualifications are fully appreciated. The nonsense begins to appear when conclusions are drawn by those who do not understand the subtle limitations of the information available and the criteria on which it has been processed.

The dangers of disastrous shortages depend more than anything else, upon whether the population explosion continues unchecked, and whether human beings' appetite for consumption is ever becoming checked. President Carter is to be congratulated on drawing the attention of the highest consumers' to his own countrymen, to the dangers. The solution, Sir Hugh points out, will require drastic readjustments to our thinking, especially by those economists

whose main criteria for diagnosis and decision making are such things as GNP and DCF.

Meanwhile the National Coal Board might draw attention to the difficulties, if they were to emphasize the amount of coal they are planning to leave behind in unrecoverable pillars, in the Selby area alone, in order to obtain planning permission by reducing the amount of subsidence.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PRYOR,
Department of Mineral Resources Engineering,
Royal School of Mines,
London SW7 2BP.

until they become the dominant parameter in controlling the cost of primary metals.

If we wish to maintain a material civilization, and for civilization as we know it, metals are essential, then we should try to conserve the low energy requiring metallic resources particularly of those metals whose life is short.

In the production of most materials, heavy energy demands are associated with mining, mineral separation and chemical reduction to the metallic state. The subsequent energy for fabrication to the semi-finished product, the engineer's starting material, is relatively small.

If, therefore, we design engineering structures in such a way that the components contain metals with a relatively short resource life, are readily recoverable, then by recycling we could conserve our resources at a relatively low energy cost, for we then obviate the need for the heavy energy expenditures in the primary concentration and smelting process. But there are difficulties: some materials are difficult to recycle, some are not readily recyclable.

There are many other issues of a similar type. For example, can we identify the critical engineering uses of materials, materials which are likely to become costly? Then can we limit the use of these materials, before they become prohibitively costly, to the critical applications? Perhaps the metallurgist and the engineer should be working more closely together to develop resource-conscious design philosophies.

Yours faithfully,
JACK NUTTIN,
President,
The Metals Society,
1 Carlton House Terrace,
London, SW1,
May 6.

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The ministry said 1977 order statistics still have to be treated with care because of changes in the calculation method.

Vehicle HP down

Total motor vehicle hire purchase contracts last month were 105,328 compared with 106,893 in the same month last year, according to Hire Purchase Information. New cars bought on credit last month totalled 21,790 against 21,661 last year and the used car figure was 55,278 (56,656).

Fore-courting the motorist

By Mr N. D. J. Lane

Sir, On my way to work this morning, I stopped for some petrol. I was asked if I wanted a pump or discount, and opted for a discount. I got:

(i) My discount.

(ii) Some new kind of trading stamp.

(iii) An album in which to stick my new stamps.

(iv) A leaflet to explain how to stick them in, and what to do with them afterwards.

(v) Three plastic metric conversion tables, with a picture of a young lady on the back.

(vi) Three plastic Union Jacks, each with a moustache portrait of Her Majesty in the middle.

(vii) (Almost as an after-thought) some petrol.

Is this a record?

Yours faithfully,
N. D. J. LANE,
63 Shandon Avenue,
London, NG.

Eight minis costing £1m for Elida Gibbs

Eight minicomputers worth more than £1m are being supplied by Digital Equipment Company to Elida Gibbs Ltd, the Unilever subsidiary whose products include Sunsilk shampoo, Pears soap and Signal toothpaste.

The machines are six PDP-11/70s and two PDP-11/34s. They will together provide a distributed computing network to link the company's head office in London, factories, and a new warehouse in Leamington.

A company database held on an IBM 370/138 computer will also be distributed to the network of minis, using the Cimcom Total database management system software.

Four applications are planned: on-line order and delivery processing, on-line logistics, factory data capture, and control of the new automated warehouse (at present under construction).

Another DEC minicomputer will control a robot train system which will be used in the warehouse for incoming goods. Four colour mimic display systems will indicate the status of different sections of the warehouse to staff in the central control room.

Using Digital's Decnet network communications software, terminals on any of the four sites will be able to run programs and obtain access to files held on any of the computers.

Computer news

The authority should not have licensing and enforcement powers, the society says, but should provide a code of conduct, have the power to call for information on systems, and consider complaints.

Presentation and publication of statistical information should always ensure that individuals cannot be identified.

But benefits could come from the greater use for statistical purposes of data already collected: thus the passage of information for such purposes should be facilitated. Adequate safeguards can be specified to protect individual privacy.

The society says that "all systems, including police information systems and those relating to national security, should be subject to the same general standards so far as the use of the information in them for statistical purposes is concerned."

Where the safety of the realm or the control of crime is concerned, special considerations must apply, but the authority should play some role in protecting the rights of individuals.

Offer for CRC

An offer for the issued ordinary share capital of CRC Information Systems, London, has been made on behalf of CSI International, a member of the French Compagnie Générale d'Electricité group.

The directors of CRC are recommending shareholders to accept the offer, and ICPC Computer Group, which holds 50 per cent of CRC's issued share capital, has conditionally agreed to accept.

Kenneth Owen

Results in brief

	1976	1975
Profit before taxation	1372	693
Taxation	696	354
Profit after Taxation	676	339
Dividends paid or proposed	168	153
Earnings after tax per Share	32.3p	16.2p
Net assets per Share	305p	283p

Metallurgical, Mechanical, Electrical & Instrument Engineering

Langley Alloys Limited
Hugh Smith (Glasgow) Limited
Grosvenor Hypovac Limited
Brentford Electric Limited
E.N. Bray Limited
Counting Instruments Limited

ABERDEEN TRUST LIMITED

Unaudited Interim Report for six months ended 31st March, 1977			
	31st March, 1977	31st March, 1976	Year ended 30th Sept, 1976
Gross Revenue after deducting Interest and Expenses	£210,183	£744,414	£1,683,097
LESS: Taxation	302,078	277,854	620,542
	£208,114	£466,560	£1,062,555
Value of Net Assets	£38,458,988	£37,159,669	£35,080,705
Including full Dollar Premium of	4,029,393 (41%)	4,483,566 (50%)	5,353,996 (62%)
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Stock 25p unit after deducting prior charges at redemption values	160p	154p	145p

"Group sales and profit are in excess of those for the same period last year."

We have increased our exports profitably and our export sales are over 50% higher than the same period last year."

Bernard Cotton, Chairman.

Unaudited results for the 24 weeks to:		
	March 25 1977	March 19 1976
Sales	£18,243	£15,332
Group trading profit	1848	1393
Attributable earnings	374	341
Rate of ordinary dividend	1p	1p
	per share	per share

Copies of the interim report obtainable from

OSBORN

An international engineering group

The Secretary,
Samuel Osborn & Co. Limited,
P.O. Box 1,
Sheffield S30 3TR

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Using Digital's Decnet network communications software, terminals on any of the four sites will be able to run programs and obtain access to files held on any of the computers.

Protecting privacy

In evidence to the Data Protection Committee, the Royal Statistical Society has welcomed the proposal to set up a Data Protection Authority which will be concerned with the protection of personal information held in computer systems—but the society recommends that the authority's brief should be extended to include similar data stored in other systems.

GROUP LIMITED

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"The present position justifies expectation of a further increase in profits for the current year"

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An Interim Dividend of 1.35p net per Ordinary Stock 25p unit (last year 1.167p) has been declared for the year ending 30th September, 1977, payable 24th June, 1977.

10 Queen's Terrace,
Aberdeen AB9 1JQ.

EAST OF SCOTLAND INVESTMENT MANAGERS LIMITED
Managers and Secretaries

Europa

Finding concrete policies to solve human problems

The socialist economy must not become a fig-leaf for old-style capitalism. Herr Heinz Vetter, President of the German TUC, told us.

Herr Vetter, what in your view is the biggest problem currently facing the European trade unions?

In our view the Number One problem is unemployment. We were thoroughly prepared for the series of European discussions now in progress which will culminate in the tripartite conference with management, the unions, and the EEC Commission and the governments. It won't just be a question of setting targets but of producing very concrete policies to deal with the economic and human problems we are facing.

It certainly won't be easy to get the governments to spell out in concrete terms what they propose to do, and to discuss this with us and reach joint conclusions. Governments tend to be evasive as they are also answerable to their parliaments, but we are in agreement with the majority of European MPs in our aims and demands.

The second problem is direct elections to the European Parliament. The unions, which have had their own European association for some time now, want a Parliament elected directly by the people, which has machinery to function in the same way as a national Parliament.

Direct elections are not enough: the powers of the Parliament must be increased, and in addition the structure of community councils, organizations and agencies must be made more democratic. Don't you think that all this discussion about the European Parliament is a side-issue compared to the real problems?

No, I think only the cynics and those people who have already given up Europe for lost could think that. Even if direct elections were only a small step forward, we would be satisfied. We are going to support direct elections and in so doing show that the man in the street is really interested in Europe. I believe that direct elections will help to making public opinion

Herr Heinz Vetter, head of the German trade union movement, the DGB, in this exclusive interview with Europa, calls for a big effort to reduce unemployment. Economic growth on its own will not be enough, he says. There must be retraining and a cut in the working week.

bring the issue to the public's attention.

Do you have any concrete proposals for measures to deal with unemployment?

In West Germany we have already gone a long way in discussing the causes—both economic and structural—of unemployment and in analysing its impact on the various groups, such as the older workers, handicapped workers and workers in some whole (branches of) industry. We have reached the conclusion—a frightening one for many people—that unemployment cannot be beaten by short-term measures alone.

Other means must be used, for instance, retraining suitable people in other skills which are still in demand. When you see how many jobs rationalization has cost—and you cannot oppose rationalization as long as there is free international competition—when you see the children of the bulge reaching employable age, you become convinced that economic growth on its own is not enough. At some point or other working hours will have to be cut.

You recently said that "if the system is incapable of getting back to full employment, it must be changed". Do you see the causes of unemployment in the nature of the system itself?

You can give a "yes" or "no" answer to that. In West Germany after the war, we—and particularly the unions—sought to build an economic system half-way between the old-style capitalism and communism. The result was the socialist market economy.

But the socialist market economy must not be just a fig leaf for the old-style capitalism. And this is why this economic system should be

open to question. We are not after another system, we are out to eliminate the recognized defects, the deficiencies in this system. We said "market economy"—fine, but this market economy must have man as its focal point. This is why we are particularly disturbed by current developments. We have lost a lot of ground now that we are back to worrying about jobs. This inhuman face of unemployment must go, and quickly.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the West German unions have agreed to relatively moderate wage increases. Did you expect some return for this, and have you got it?

When we were looking for the other side of the bargain (reduction in unemployment) to show our members, it did not come. Hence the crisis of confidence. As a union we do not just have to be able to produce a policy, we also have to be able to demonstrate to our militants that it is the right one. This is becoming difficult in West Germany, and this is why we have to make a major effort before the end of the year to demonstrate that the unions have been following the right policy.

Do you think that West German society can accept a figure of one million unemployed for much longer?

You can get used to living with problems. On one hand perhaps the decision makers are getting used to the unemployment level. On the other hand there is a much stronger awareness among the workers: unemployment is becoming more and more of an issue for employees. If the gap widens between the complacency on the one hand and the increasing awareness on the other, then you must expect political consequences. And then there are the unemployed themselves. There is an increase in the number of long-term unemployed, and an accompanying rise in the number of disaffected.

I should say that West Germany won't stay as peaceful in this third year of the crisis as it has been in the past.

Daniel Vernet

Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited

The Board announces estimated and unaudited profits for the 3 months to 31st March, 1977 of £10.7m (1976 £4.3m) after providing for taxation. These results cannot be taken as a guide for the year as a whole.

	3 Months to 31st March, 1977 (Estimate)	3 Months to 31st March, 1976 (Estimate)	Year 1976 (Actual)
PREMIUM INCOME	357.1	302.2	1,148.9
Investment income	32.0	25.9	123.9
Life profits	3.0	1.6	7.9
Underwriting loss	(11.2)	(15.4)	(58.8)
Loan interest	(5.8)	(5.2)	(24.7)
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	18.0	6.9	47.3
Taxation and minorities	(7.3)	(2.6)	(17.2)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	10.7	4.3	30.1
EARNINGS PER SHARE	3.44p	1.36p	9.64p
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	£360m	£315m	£359m

As usual, the results of the Company's overseas operations have been converted at rates of exchange ruling at the close of the periods reported above.

Premium income has increased by 18%, over half of which is due to changes in rates of exchange.

The underwriting results continue to show the improvement established during 1976.

In the United Kingdom there is an underwriting loss, most of which is due to further subsidence claims amounting to approximately £1m.

In the United States the underlying underwriting experience continues to show an improvement over last year. Workers' Compensation experience has deteriorated, but all other major classes show an improvement over last year with the exception of Fire business, which, although profitable, has been adversely affected by losses arising from the severe winter this year. The Statutory operating ratio was 107.4%, compared with 110% a year ago.

Underwriting results in Australia continue to improve following corrective measures taken in previous years and in the face of severe competition in the market. In Canada results are profitable due mainly to an improvement in Motor experience. The results in Western Europe are generally unchanged.

The Tenerife aircraft disaster is estimated to cost approximately £1.3m and full provision for this loss has been made in the underwriting results reported above.

On 19th April, 1977 it was announced that all the offers by the Company for the whole of the issued share capital of Estates House Investment Trust Limited had been declared unconditional. Acceptances in excess of 90% have now been received in respect of all offers. The effect of this acquisition will be to add some £45m to Shareholders' Funds stated above.

Insure with Commercial Union Assurance



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Wholesale prices spur equities

A cautious start to the new account was quickly replaced by a lively demand after the Wholesale Prices Index had given a more favourable view of inflation.

Bargains marked of 8.200 were the best since the middle of March and, though there was a measure of profit-taking in the afternoon trade, it was easily absorbed. The FT Index, just 0.7 up at 2 pm, closed 4.1 ahead at 42.8.

Gifted stocks were initially depressed by Friday's unchanged Minimum Lending Rate but they, too, took heart from the wholesale prices and early losses of up to a full point in some cases were chip-ped back. By the close, short dates were up to three-eighths lower with longer maturities down by half a point.

In July, heavy-lorry makers, Fodens and ERF, report on their years to last March. Fodens could check in with a swing from £1m of losses to profits of the same order, and ERF could have completed from £90,000 of losses to profits of £1.4m or more. Over the earnings of Fodens hangs the convertible preferred shares, but ERF has a "recovery" dividend with cover to spare. ERF shares are 41p, and Fodens 33p.

Though the leading industrial issues saw their fair share of demand, it was the second-line speculative stocks which stole most of the limelight. Among the strongest spots were Johnson-Richards Tiles which jumped 2p to 236p in the concluding hours of the session. From London Brick, water engineer, A. Monk which rose 10p

to 88p, Storey Brothers which closed 10 ahead at 83p and RFD which ended 8p ahead at 63p in spite of denying that talks of any kind were in progress.

Well-established takeover favourites like Arthur Bell 5p to 255p and Hunting-Gibson 17p to 287p continued to gain ground, while Andre Silenblocc slipped a penny to 54p after rejecting the latest BTR terms and London & Northern were 4p off at 351p on the Murphy sell-off.

Once again there was considerable interest in electricals. Foremost was Decca 4.9 which soared 25p to 345p on bid hopes. Earlier the chairman said he knew of no plans for a Government-supported rationalization of the electronics industry involving his company.

Another to benefit from the prospect of Government action was Revell Parsons which gained 12p to 189p in anticipation of a statement on the Drax project. Strong first-half profits, a bullish forecast and a scrip helped United Scientific to rise 3p to 215p, but Laurence Scott, 2p up to 122p, made a muted response to a profits forecast, this being outweighed by the lack of further takeover news.

Others favoured on the pitch were Dixons Photographic, 6p to 104p, Muirhead 4p to 204p and ICL, mentioned here, which put on 9p for a close of 215p.

North Sea potential brought a strong investment demand for Thomson Organisation which rose another 2p to 590p and for the same reason Tri-control ended 10p to the good at 156p. Capital reorganization plans continued to boost Hawker Siddeley another 2p to 652p, but Tesco gave up half of an early 2p rise to close at 43p after its decision to stop giving trading stamps.

Hopes of still lower mortgage rates gave a firmer look to the building sector.

Housebuilders Barratt Developments put on 5p to 95p, the annual report helped Travis & Arnold to jump 11p to 107p, BFB were a firm spot at 168p and Costain rose 6p to 204p ahead of figures.

Issues to benefit from weekend comment included Bencrose, which added 5p to 65p, Ductile Steel 9p to 139p, Caw-

daw 7p to 33p and Wedgwood at 194p. Insurances had Commercial Union 4p ahead at 126p after a quarterly and Sun Alliance a strong market at 457p, up 12p.

Gains of up to 6p came from the clearing banks with Barclays at 255p, Midland 283p and National Westminster 233p and Lloyds 223p. The strongest of a comparatively subdued property sector were Berkeley Hambro 5p to 164p, Stock Conversion 4p to 197p and Land Securities 3p to 193p.

Brokers report a lively interest in Hampton Gold Mining, an Australian group with a 5 per cent share in North Sea block 211/22 just north of the Brent Field. A first exploratory well was abandoned in December because of a faulty rig. But there were promising signs and a start is to be made on a second well at the end of the month. The shares have jumped 12p to 94p in a week.

Among the "blue chips", Unilever, with figures due today, rose 7p to 502p, Beecham added 10p to 476p, Glaxo 8p to 503p and ICI 4p to 378p. Disappointing figures, clipped 8p to 35p from Stonehill Holdings, while H. C. Slingsby added 2p to 25p after figures. Equity turnover on May 6 was £141.6m (23,921 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Laurence Scott, Shell, Barclays, BP, P & O, BAT Dtd, Unilever, GKN, MEPC, AVP, Industries, Marks & Spencer, ICL, London & Northern, Gus "A", Andre Silenblocc, Hawker Siddeley, Hagman "A", Revell Parsons, Decca "A" and Thomson Organisation.

Latest dividends

Company (and per value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's date	Prev year
Advance Laundries Fin	1.35	1.2	1/6	1/6	1.5
Bentley (55p) Div	4.9	3.77	2/6	4/15	3.77
Decca (4.9)	5.05	1/6	1/6	1/6	3.2
Samuel Osborn (35p) Int	1	1	1/7	1/7	1.54
P. Panto (10p) Fin	0.77	0.7	1/7	1/7	1.54
Randall & Quirk (55p) Fin	2	2.78	4/7	4/7	1.54
Stonehill Hldgs (25p) Fin	5	5	4/7	4/7	1.54
United Scientific (25p) Int	1.25	1.0	3/10	3/10	2.87
Westward TV (10p) Int	0.55	0.5	2/6	2/6	1.5

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in this table the dividends are shown at gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Special dividend.

Booming Utd Scientific gives scrip

By Tony May

A bumper half-year, a one-for-two scrip and the prospect of another record profit for the full year at United Scientific Holdings pushed the group's shares up 8p to 218p.

In line with predictions made at the last annual meeting, the level of activity has been picking up. Pre-tax profits of this supplier of optical, scientific and electronic equipment jumped 38 per cent to a record £1.6m for the six months to March 31. This was on turnover 30 per cent up at £6.26m, pointing to a rise in margins from 17.5 to 18.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, shareholders collect a dividend of 1.52p against 1.54p gross.

Mr John Robertshaw, chairman, says that the group is keeping up its growth rate, and that pre-tax profits for the full year should not be less than £2.5m. The group's profit for the year ended last year. This is in line with his prediction in his last annual statement that profits should "clearly exceed" £2m.

The group's forward order book is still over £18m, and cash balances have increased substantially, ensuring that new projects and developments can be carried out with firm backing. One project which has already been started is the building of a new factory at Taunton, solely for the production and development of laser rangefinders. This factory should be in use by January,

1978, and underlines the importance which the group attaches to lasers. Mr Robertshaw expects them to represent a significant part of the group's future production.

In December the group passed the film barrier for the first time with a leap of 117 per cent in profits to £1.8m for the year to September 30. The board said that it had been aiming for this sort of growth for some time, and expected more progress this year. All the group's sectors are now well established in their specialist areas.

The group's growth has been impressive. Profits ten years ago were only £15,000, but they rose to £400,000 by 1973, and then more than doubled to £871,000 by 1975.



Mr John Robertshaw, chairman of United Scientific.

Second-half uplift puts J Beattie again at peak

By Victor Felstead

A big upswing in the second half-year—aided by an "excellent" Christmas—pushed James Beattie, the Wolverhampton-based group running six department stores, to record results for the sixth year running. After being 38 per cent lower in the first six months, profits, before tax and profit sharing, rose forward 7.33 per cent to £2.24m in the year to January 31.

Sales rose 10.73 per cent to £25.16m, just a shade under the growth rate of 11 per cent in the first half. The group's share price, which had fallen from 157.5p to 17.6p, the total gross payment rises from 5.8p to 6.38p.

Share stakes are not always accumulated. The latest batch of disclosures reveals a string of sales. Mr John Danny, chief of Grovewood Securities (property, investment, Brands Hatch) has sold 1.3m shares in Eagle, which took over Grovewood.

At Tesco, now jettisoning Green Shield Stamps, Mr Hyman Kreitman, a director and former chairman, has unloaded 100,000 shares. His non-beneficial interests. This sale is one of a

series. He is not the only director selling. Mr David Behar has sold 150,000 shares. Mr Robertshaw, chairman of United Scientific, has sold 100,000 shares. Mr Robertshaw, chairman of United Scientific, has sold 100,000 shares.

With the serving members' dividend up from £171,000 to £181,000 and tax slightly heavier at £1.04m, against £1m, net earnings expanded from £907,000 to £1.01m.

Profits, before tax and the staff bonus, climbed by 30.94 per cent to £1.8m in the second half, compared with the last half of the previous year.

At mid-term in September the board reported that it would be difficult to match the good results of the first half of the previous year. This benefited the share price, which had preceded changes in VAT rates. It also reported greatly increased operating costs.

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Kenkast losses

With sales down from £3.03m to £2.63m, losses before tax at Kenkast Ltd more than trebled from £125,000 to £397,000 last year. For the second year running there is no ordinary dividend. Conditions deteriorated seriously in the second half, when there was "severe competition" in a reduced market, particularly in housing and building. Losses have continued this year, but the forward order position, excluding housing, has improved. Prospects in general for the coming months appear brighter, the board reports.

Westward TV

Having had its ups-and-downs over the years, Westward Television has seen its pre-tax profits up to £338,000 for the half-year to January 31. Profits were after heavier depreciation of £77,000, against £68,000, and more than trebled Exchequer levy of £278,000, compared with £74,000. Net advertising revenue rose from £1.89m to £2.56m. It expects the year's results to show a similar increase in revenue and profits. Shareholders benefit, with the interim payment rising from 0.76p to 0.84p gross.

Stonehill dips

The possible polarizing of the furniture market between the stylishly expensive and the cheaper mass-produced product following the sliding trend in middle incomes seems to be affecting groups like Stonehill Holdings which operates chiefly in the medium in-between sector.

Stonehill dips

Beating its forecast in 1975-76 with an outturn of £1.32m, a weak pound in the year just past meant higher costs. The Prices Commission prevented the group passing them on. Profits consequently for the 12 months to April 3 dropped slightly from £1.32m to £1.22m at the pre-tax. Turnover in the year advanced from £11m to £12.8m.

Rhone-Poulenc cuts loss by nearly £42m

Paris, May 9.—Rhone-Poulenc, the major French chemical and textile group, states that its consolidated loss has narrowed significantly to 364m francs (about £41.8m) from 941m francs in 1975.

As previously reported, turnover rose by 21.6 per cent to 21,700m francs from 17,800m francs in 1975. The company said that the group's gross cash flow stood at 982m francs last year, compared with a negative cash flow of 214m the year before.

The group said the loss last year was chiefly because of its textile activities, which made a loss of between £50m to 60m francs, compared with one of 730m.

It said that its textile division was at present working at 85 per cent capacity, mostly smothered by exports. After stagnation in April, it expects its output to decline slightly in the second quarter.—AP-Dow Jones.

French bank's offer

Société Générale, one of France's major nationalized banks, states that it is managing a 575m (about £44m) floating rate note issue on the international capital market on its own account in association with Credit Suisse White Weld and other banks. The coupon

Double profits at L Scott

The Laurence Scott electrical machinery and control gear group is trading well and chairman Mr Paul Tapscott, says that pre-tax profits for the year ended Mar 31 have roughly doubled to a record £2.7m. The shares up 2p to 122p, as the market was disappointed that more was not said about the current bid talks. Last Thursday the board said that discussions were taking place with an unnamed party which might or might not result in a bid. The group is currently capitalized at about £8.9m.

Rueterswerke ahead

Rueterswerke, the German chemicals, plastics and building materials manufacturing group, pushed its 1976 profit up 28.7 per cent to DM22.2m (about £5.5m) from DM18m in 1975. Herr Heinrich Gerhardt, chairman of the board, said that the high rate of growth was due to recovery in the chemicals and plastics sectors.

Hutchison bid for Swift

Hutchison International says that its Australian subsidiary, Hutchison International Property, has reached agreement with Swift & Co of Australia to raise its stake in Swift to 39.9 per cent from 35.5 per cent and to bid for Swift's remaining shares at a 51.96 per cent holding. Hutchison International Property plans to make an offer to Swift shareholders to buy for cash one share for every five held at \$A1.50 per share.

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Phoenix Min meeting adjourned for 21 days

By Ray Maughan

A poll on the resolution to acquire Worldwide Group was called for at the Phoenix Mining and Finance extraordinary meeting yesterday. The resolution had been defeated on a show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned for 21 days as were the reconvened meetings 15 months later. The resolution to acquire Worldwide Group was called for at the Phoenix Mining and Finance extraordinary meeting yesterday. The resolution had been defeated on a show of hands.

The mooted acquisition of Worldwide for £250,000 in cash has been strongly opposed by a specially formed Shareholders' Protection Committee. Drawn from both G & P and PM & F, the Committee also put an amending resolution calling for £100,000 of the consideration to be placed in escrow for two years.

During this time Worldwide must hit its pre-tax profits forecast of £50,000 in the nine months to end-December next, and for that level of profit ability to be maintained over the subsequent 15 months.

Mr Francis Bird, chairman of both G & P and PM & F put a further amendment that the disposition of £100,000 in escrow should be subject to negotiation between the vendor, Mr Harold Sussman, and the purchasers.

Polls were also called for on each of these subsequent amendments and the results are anticipated tomorrow.

The merger is entirely uncontested and opposition to the worldwide deal is made by the fact that G & P's holding of 41 per cent of PM & F voted for the acquisition resolution.

The Shareholders' Committee claims 51.3 per cent of the "free" votes in G & P, but only 30 per cent in PM & F. If the purchase does go ahead, the Committee claims, the combined Rhodesian mining finance house will be spending £250,000 of its total sterling assets of £539,000 on an engineering consultancy personnel service which would generate profits of £8,000 in the seven months to October last year at which point net worth was £33,000.

BCA's fresh move on Nationwide

By Nicholas Hirst

British Car Auctions is trying a new strategy to gain control of the unquoted Nationwide Leisure Group.

Frustrated from acquiring Nationwide with its cash-and-paper offer, which closed last month, BCA is now attempting to use its near 30 per cent holding, obtained in the course of the unsuccessful offer, to gain boardroom control.

BCA is using its votes to ask Nationwide to convene an extraordinary meeting at which it will attempt to get boardroom representation, to obtain an up-to-date valuation of Nationwide and its subsidiaries, and to change accountability procedures.

In the course of the bid BCA continuously criticized the Nationwide management for late production of accounts.

Mr David Wickens, chairman of BCA, said yesterday that if he succeeded in getting boardroom control he would inform shareholders of the up-to-date valuation of the business and, if it were justified, would make an increased offer.

It is also to be noted that Nationwide chairman, Mr J. M. Hutchings, and two other directors and elect four nominees of BCA to give BCA management control.

Mr Wickens said: "Nationwide has not published its 1976 accounts yet we publish ours within 90 days and there is no reason why any company should not be able to do this."

MARKET REPORTS

Metals start the week on subdued note

The London Metal Exchange opened the week on a subdued note yesterday with prices lower throughout.

Sentiment was affected by the news that the world's largest copper producer, Chile, had agreed to a 10 per cent increase in output for 1977. This was seen as a threat to the tight market for the metal.

Markets considered by dealers to be particularly overbought, such as tin and lead, showed the steepest falls.

Although copper wire bars rallied briefly on news of a 25-tonne decline in stocks, at the afternoon close cash was 29.25 down on the day and three months at 29.75.

Tin was initially sustained by a 15-tonne fall in the Panning price and a 85-tonne fall in stocks, but prices sagged as the close. Cash had lost 15.50 and three months was 23.50 down.

Lead gave ground under heavy selling on a steadily overbought market and a stock increase. 900 tonnes also affected sentiment. Cash lost 17.75 on the day but three months was 21.25 down.

Zinc was influenced by the decline in other metals and lost 5 for cash and 25.25 for three months. Losses were less pronounced because of absence of significant stock orders.

Aluminium—Cash was 100.50 down on the day and three months at 101.50. Losses were less pronounced because of absence of significant stock orders.

Gold—Cash was 100.50 down on the day and three months at 101.50. Losses were less pronounced because of absence of significant stock orders.

Commodities

LEAD

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TIN

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ZINC

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COPPER

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GOLD

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SILVER

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PLATINUM

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PALLADIUM

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Foreign Exchange

The dollar rallied in most European currencies yesterday

The dollar rallied in most European currencies yesterday although its recovery started to fade later.

The absence of a public agreement at the weekend economic summit to let stronger currencies appreciate provided most impetus to the dollar, along with higher short-term United States interest rates, dealers said.

The dollar closed at 2.3590/3600 Marks from 2.3495/3505 on Friday in active trading, reflecting the dismantling of some long positions in the Mark.

Sterling closed at \$1.7189, 7 points up on Friday's close. The Bank of England effective rate was at 61.7 per cent compared with 61.6 per cent on Friday.

The Canadian dollar rallied from the day's lows to close at 55.28/29 United States cents from 55.48/51 on Friday after the cut in Canadian bank rates.

The United States dollar was firmer.

Gold closed in London \$1 an ounce down at \$147.25.

Spot Position of Sterling

At London, the spot position of sterling was as follows:

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Forward Levels

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Gold

At London, the gold price was as follows:

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Silver

At London, the silver price was as follows:

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Platinum

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Palladium

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Rubber

At London, the rubber price was as follows:

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At London, the rubber price was as follows:

Cocoa

At London, the cocoa price was as follows:

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Discount market

There had been early indications that a slight shortage of funds

There had been early indications that a slight shortage of funds was possible on Lombard Street yesterday and the Bank of England found during the afternoon that resources were ready to sell bills to put themselves in funds. So the authorities bought a moderate amount of Treasury bills directly from the houses.

No one seemed to experience much difficulty, however, and some houses were reporting that money was answering quite readily from the outset. With some "churny" amounts to be picked up, rates came down quite smartly from their starting levels around 7 1/2 per cent. Before the morning was out, balances were being picked up at 7 per cent, and in a very easy close books were finally balanced anywhere between 6 per cent and 3 per cent.

The major price factor was a fairly large excess of Exchequer disbursements over Revenue in flow. On the minus side were slightly run-down bank balances.

Money Market Rates

At London, the money market rates were as follows:

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UK metal stocks

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Insurance

At London, the insurance companies were as follows:

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Offshore Funds

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Units

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Funds

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Insurance

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Wall Street

New York, May 9.—Prices

New York, May 9.—Prices closed mostly lower with trading relatively quiet on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 3.65 points to 933.09. Declining issues outnumbered gainers 740 to 600.

Volume was 15,230,000 shares compared with 18,770,000 on Friday.

Brokers said many investors continued fearful that a continuing sharp expansion of the money supply would prompt the Federal Reserve to tighten its money policy further.

New York, May 9.—SILVER. Comm. silver futures closed at 10.10 1/2, down 1/4. Gold futures closed at 147.25, down 1/4.

At New York, the gold price was as follows:

At New York, the gold price was as follows:

At New York, the gold price was as follows:

Canadian Prices

At Toronto, the Canadian prices were as follows:

At Toronto, the Canadian prices were as follows:

At Toronto, the Canadian prices were as follows:

European Prices

At London, the European prices were as follows:

At London, the European prices were as follows:

At London, the European prices were as follows:

Asian Prices

At London, the Asian prices were as follows:

At London, the Asian prices were as follows:

At London, the Asian prices were as follows:

African Prices

At London, the African prices were as follows:

At London, the African prices were as follows:

At London, the African prices were as follows:

Oceania Prices

At London, the Oceania prices were as follows:

At London, the Oceania prices were as follows:

At London, the Oceania prices were as follows:

Middle East Prices

At London, the Middle East prices were as follows:

At London, the Middle East prices were as follows:

At London, the Middle East prices were as follows:

South America Prices

At London, the South America prices were as follows:

At London, the South America prices were as follows:

At London, the South America prices were as follows:

Caribbean Prices

At London, the Caribbean prices were as follows:

At London, the Caribbean prices were as follows:

At London, the Caribbean prices were as follows:

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank 8 1/4%
Consolidated Credits 9%
First London Secs 9%
C. Hoare & Co 8 1/4%
Lloyds Bank 8 1/4%
Midland Bank 8 1/4%
Nat Westminster 8 1/4%
Rossminster Acc's 8 1/4%
Shenley Trust 11 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's 8 1/4%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 6%
£25,000, 6 1/4%
£50,000, 6 1/2%



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119-52 Airsprung & Rhodes 119 - 8.2 7.4 6.0
130 104 Deborah 174 CULS 130 - 17.5 13.5
132 120 Frederick Parker 132 - 11.5 8.7
74-45 Henry Sykes 74 - 4.2 3.2 7.0
250 489 James Burgess 250 - 4.3 6.0 10.1 5.5
24 6 Twynlock Ord 24 - 4.2 12.0 19.4
67 54 Twynlock 12 CULS 67 - 6.1 10.2 7.5
63 51 Twynlock Holdings 63 - 5.8 7.5 8.7
77 65 Walter Alexander 77 - 5.8 7.5 8.7

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Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments also on page 23

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